

Jerusalem

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## Yeshiva student killed in Beit El attack

### Peres: We can't stop all terror attacks

HERB KEINON

A YESHIVA student was fatally wounded, another student was shot, and two women were injured, when terrorists in a speeding car went on a shooting rampage yesterday, first firing on a bus north of Ramallah, and then at students at a hitchhiking post in front of Beit El.

David Baum, 17, was shot in the head while waiting for a ride to Jerusalem. He was buried in the capital late last night. Another yeshiva student, Moshe Greenbaum, who was shot in the back, was listed in satisfactory condition at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem. Both youths studied at the yeshiva high school in Beit El.

The two wounded women were passengers on the bus. They were taken to Hadassah University Hospital, Mount Scopus, with minor injuries. Rivka David, 26, who was in advanced stages of pregnancy, was taken to the hospital's maternity ward, where she was safely delivered of a healthy boy by cesarean section. The other woman, Yelena Kozlov, 36, was treated and released.

"The terror groups are doing everything they can to stop the peace process," Itim quoted Prime Minister Shimon Peres as saying last night. "Many attacks have been prevented, but it is impossible to prevent them all."

"Today, the attack was in Area C, which is under our control, and we will make every effort to apprehend the murderers."



IDF soldiers examine bullet marks on the windshield of the bus shot at by gunmen near Beit El yesterday.

(AP)

According to the IDF, the attack took place just after 4 p.m., when the car driving north from Ramallah fired on a Binyamin Regional Council bus that was bringing workers from the civil administration building near the Judea and Samaria junction to Jerusalem.

Yehuda Pinsky, deputy head of the Binyamin Regional Council, said that 13 shots hit the bus, but that they did not penetrate because it had been bullet-proofed.

"We were bringing a group of civilians from the civil administration, and before we turned left, about 10 shots at us from a silver car. Thank God no one was

injured. If the bus was not bullet-proofed, I would be dead now," the driver told Israel Radio.

David and Kozlov were injured when the driver slammed on the brakes, and then sped away.

After firing on the bus, the terrorists continued another few hundred meters and fired at the yeshiva students.

Baum's mother, Frieda, told Israel Radio from the hospital that "this is not a country with security, or peace. What kind of place is it where students can not leave the yeshiva, that if they leave someone will take a gun out and shoot them? I don't know what kind of peace this is."

Jerusalem's Har Nof neighborhood, immigrated from the New York area 11 years ago. Friends of the family described David as a studious, pleasant, hard-working 11th grader.

"They are a very fine family who immigrated because they felt it was the right thing to do, one friend of the family said. "The mother was devoted to her son. Now she is devastated."

Kohy Sela, an Ofra resident and reporter for Arutz 7, was at a gas station nearby.

"I heard the shots and, while the car was still at the junction, ran to help. I have a cellular phone and called the security people," he said.

Sela said that an IDF jeep was within sight of the attack, but failed to pursue or fire at the terrorists.

After shooting at the students, the terrorists' car continued to race north. The terrorists apparently lost control of the vehicle, and it overturned a few hundred meters up the road. Had the jeep pursued the vehicle, Sela said, it is likely the soldiers could have caught the terrorists.

The IDF Spokesman said that after the car overturned, the terrorists apparently hijacked a truck with territories' license plates, and continued north. The IDF found a gun and ammunition in the overturned car, and —

fearing the car might be booby-trapped — blew it up. The army conducted searches in the area.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan said that reports that the IDF did not respond effectively "will be investigated."

Settlement leaders complained that on Friday, the IDF took down a roadblock at the junction where the attack on the bus took place. Yoav Barak, the secretary of Beit El, said that he had asked Dayan last week not to remove the roadblock because it gives area residents a sense of security.

"This is a complete IDF failure," Barak said. "We told the IDF that something like this might happen, but — as always — they know better than the people who live in the area."

Barak said that the settlement is weighing different responses to the attack, but would not elaborate. He said that settlement leaders in the region have in the past called for the road to be closed to Arab traffic.

On Sunday, a petrol bomb was thrown at a vehicle driving on the Ramallah bypass road near Kochav Ya'acov.

"Jews cannot drive freely in Ramallah," Pinsky said, "but Arabs can drive freely from Ramallah and, with weapons given to them, attempt to kill Jews in nearby settlements. If this is the peace, it is untenable."

*Sarah Honig adds:* In an official communique the Likud said yesterday: "The murderous attack is yet more evidence of Peres's utter failure when he counts on [Palestinian Authority President Yasser] Arafat to guarantee security for Israelis. The killers came from Arafat's fiefdom, and they escaped back into their safe havens out of the IDF's reach. The time has come to return responsibility for security to Israeli hands, and to allow the IDF full freedom of action wherever and whenever necessary."

**WORLD OF SPORT**  
Some Sweep  
Rockets Weep  
It's ALL in the  
WORLD OF SPORT  
TODAY

### Barak - Begin brawl sends panel packing

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee will not meet again before the elections, chairman Haggai Merom (Labor) decided after yesterday's session turned into a brawl between the opposing parties.

The main antagonists were Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and Likud MK Ze'ev Binyamin Begin, who clashed over the Oslo accords and the Palestinian Covenant.

Barak told the committee that the closure of the territories may be tightened before the elections, if necessary for security reasons.

He opened his remarks with a review of his meeting with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week. Barak said it had been decided to establish a team to review previous joint US-Israel agreements and make practical suggestions for a strategic agreement.

According to an official briefing, Barak also told the panel the US and Israel had agreed to work together to combat terror and would jointly ask European countries to reconsider their relations with Iran. Barak and Christopher also decided to wage a joint information and diplomatic campaign against Iran.

Barak maintained the English translation of the decision of the Palestinian National Council to amend its covenant is faithful to the Arabic original.

Begin insisted the original text says the clauses calling for Israel's destruction will be canceled, and not that they have been canceled. He accused the Foreign Ministry of working with the Palestinians to draft the English version, a charge Barak neither confirmed nor denied.

"You continue to deceive the committee, but your people in the Foreign Ministry know the truth," Begin told Barak.

"I see you read Arabic perfectly," countered Barak. He also spoke of the value of having a Palestinian institution agree in principle to change the covenant.

At this point, MK Moshe Peled (Shomri) joined in, backing Begin and telling Barak: "You are continuing to deceive the committee."

Barak then took a new tack, saying: "The suicide bombers were not brought in by the Oslo accords, but by Operation Peace for Galilee," launched by the Likud government.

"You should be ashamed of yourself. Oslo set up the safe havens for terrorists and suicide bombers," replied Begin.

"You're turning the committee into a circus," said Peled to Barak. In an apparent reference to the attacks on IDF soldiers in the security zone Sunday, he said, "You don't want to start talking about Lebanon."

### Terrorist on suicide mission caught

BILL HUTMAN

A SUICIDE bombing was averted when a Palestinian terrorist trained in Damascus by the Islamic Jihad was captured Friday by the General Security Service and police in Jerusalem, police revealed yesterday.

A police spokesman, in a statement, said suspect Salim Bana told interrogators he planned to carry out a suicide bombing at a crowded location in Israel.

Bana said that on a recent trip to Syria he contacted the headquarters of the Fathi Shkaki division of the Islamic Jihad. The group allegedly trained Bana and ordered him to return to Israel as a tourist, using his Jordanian passport, and to carry out a suicide attack.

The police spokesman refused to give out more details, on grounds it would damage the investigation.

### IAF helicopter gunships strike at Hizbullah gunmen

DAVID RUDGE

IAF helicopter gunships struck yesterday at Hizbullah gunmen believed to be hiding in the north-eastern sector of the security zone, following attacks on Sunday in which five IDF soldiers were wounded.

The IDF Spokesman said the helicopter gunships hit terrorist targets in the Soujoud region. The spokesman said the pilots had reported accurate hits and that all the aircraft returned safely to their bases.

There were no immediate reports of any casualties among the Hizbullah gunmen, although the organization has recently refrained from immediately announcing losses.

Reports from Lebanon said IDF gunners also shelled the same area yesterday, apparently with a similar aim.

The IDF activity followed two

coordinated attacks by Hizbullah gunmen on Sunday in which Sagger anti-tank missiles were fired at an IDF convoy in the Soujoud region and mortars were fired at a nearby outpost.

Hizbullah said yesterday that its operations did not breach the Operation Grapes of Wrath understandings.

The five soldiers wounded in Sunday's attacks, including three officers — one of them a major — are all recovering from shrapnel wounds in Haifa's Ramham Hospital.

President Ezer Weizman and his wife visited the wounded yesterday and met with the doctors and staff treating them.

Dr. Zvi Ben-Ishai, deputy director of the hospital, said that all

five, including Maj. Mohammed Hirbawi, from Yerka village, and Sgt. Assaf Schwartz, from Sde Eliezer, who were moderately wounded, were in satisfactory condition and making good progress.

Weizman was asked by reporters whether Hizbullah's actions on Sunday constituted a breach of the new understandings. "I believe that if all signatories to the agreement, America, Russia, France, Europe, Syria and ourselves, meant that something like this would happen, it's a great pity," he replied.

"I don't think this was the intention and [I hope] we will see them using their influence on Hizbullah and all the others so that these things won't happen again, because they can only be a spark that could light a bigger fire," said Weizman.

### First Palestinian beer gets kashrut certificate

HAIM SHAPIRO

UNTIL now, Taybeh Beer, produced in a boutique brewery in a village near Ramallah, has been the first Palestinian beer. Now it is the first kosher Palestinian beer.

What's more, the brewery is getting its kashrut certificate from Rabbi Avraham Gisser of nearby Ofra, and the person who made it all possible is Mira Weigenberg, from Tekoa.

The full-bodied, slightly sweet beer is produced by Nadim Khoury, who set up the brewery after returning home from study-

ing in the US. He brewed it according to the same recipe which he used in college. He uses only natural ingredients and no preservatives, he stresses.

Whether it is, as the label proclaims, "the best beer in the Middle East," may be a matter of discussion, but the beer has acquired a following in bars in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Nazareth, as well as in shops in the West Bank. However, he said, there were some hotels and restaurants which wanted the beer but could not sell it without a kashrut certificate.

Khoury says that there is no problem with a rabbi coming into the village, which is on the Ramallah bypass road. There are

already many Jews who come to the brewery to buy the beer, he said.

Weigenberg, a director of the Tekoa Mushroom Farm, met Khoury at the home of Edouard Renson, the Belgian commercial attaché for Flanders. The Tekoa company, which specializes in growing fresh specialty mushrooms, also imports and sells endives and shallots from Belgium, while Khoury imports his malt from the same country.

"We are planning to bring in a very nice Belgian beer, and he told us there was a beer here produced with Belgian technology and Belgian ingredients. He was also excited about bringing us together," Weigenberg said.

They agreed that the Tekoa company would distribute the Palestinian beer. It was natural, she said, for them to establish a link since the specialty markets with which the mushroom farm had contacts were precisely appropriate for the beer.

"The nice thing is that this is a fine example of cooperation between 'settlers' and 'Palestinians,' which is exactly how things should be," Weigenberg said.

The first kosher Palestinian beer is due to make its debut tonight at a Food Fair near the Tel Aviv Cinematheque. The fair, organized by the Tel Aviv Municipality, Ha'arets, and Ha'ir, is to be open from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., tonight, tomorrow, and Thursday.

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# IDF acting cool to UNIFIL

UNIFIL has failed in its mission in Lebanon. Maj.-Gen. David Zur, chief IDF liaison officer with foreign armies, said yesterday. He said top IDF commanders are not meeting with its leaders, and the IDF is reassessing its whole relationship with the peacekeepers.

Zur said contacts are being restricted to the operative field level. "There is no crisis or total breakdown in communication. The channels are open," he said. "But we are reassessing the future of our relationship with UNIFIL."

"If it was not there, it would be easier for us to act. We are putting limitations upon ourselves because of UNIFIL, while the other side, Hizbullah, is taking advantage of them."

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

But, he added, the vacuum created by a UNIFIL pullout might not be to the IDF's advantage.

Zur's comments come following reported criticism of UNIFIL by senior officers who questioned the UN force's value.

The 18-year-old UN mandate for UNIFIL calls for it to "use its best efforts to prevent a recurrence of fighting and to ensure that its area of operation will not be utilized for hostile activities of any kind."

Zur said UNIFIL has failed, but added it is not up to the IDF to justify UNIFIL's existence.

While calling the IDF shelling of the UN base at Kana people a "tragic incident," Zur lashed out at UNIFIL for not making a better effort to halt Hizbullah from firing from UN areas.

"There are hard feelings," Zur said. "We have to look toward the future. What happened, happened, and we want to continue living together."

Zur said that since the publication of the UN Kana report, he has not met with UNIFIL commander Maj.-Gen. Stanislaw Wozniak.

However, he dismissed the idea that friction between the IDF and UNIFIL could flare up in the field.



Frieda Baum, whose son was fatally wounded in yesterday's terror attack, enters Hadassah University Hospital at Ein Kerem yesterday. (Efraim Kishitok)

## Army shuts two West Bank mosques

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan ordered two mosques in Judea and Samaria shut after inflammatory leaflets were discovered in them, a security official said.

One of the mosques was in A-ran, near Jerusalem and the other in Kahlan in the Nablus area.

Shutting them was part of the ongoing operation to fight Hamas and other Islamic radicals, said Lt. Peter Lerer, spokesman for the Judea and Samaria division of the coordinator of government activities in the territories.

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israel, meanwhile, has agreed to grant entry permits to 50 Palestinian journalists provided they are accredited by the Government Press Office.

The 50, out of about 160 accredited Palestinian journalists,

are employed by Israeli as well as foreign news organizations, said Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the coordinator of government activities in the territories.

He said that more Palestinian journalists may be let in later. The move was done in coordination with the GPO, he said.

## Nahariya calls off strike over benefits

A PLANNED general strike that would have shut down Nahariya today has been called off after a decision to give residents of the town the same benefits as other confrontation-line communities.

The decision was taken yesterday by Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who are to submit their proposals to the next cabinet meeting.

Under the proposed agreement, Nahariya will be put in the "B" category of confrontation line communities which will entitle

residents to a 15 percent reduction in income tax, instead of 12%, up to a gross income ceiling of NIS 12,000 a month.

Parents of young children will also benefit from reductions in charges for sending toddlers to nurseries, while eligible home buyers will be entitled to an additional NIS 20,000 in loans for purchasing homes in the coastal town.

The decision was taken following calls by Labor MKs from the north headed by Ma'a-

lot-Tarshiha Mayor and MK Shlomo Bubbut, who is also chairman of the forum of heads of confrontation line settlements, as well as Nahariya Mayor Jackie Sabag.

Municipal services in Nahariya had been shut down since Sunday until yesterday's announcement, over what Sabag described as discrimination against the town and its residents. All protest action was called off yesterday following the announcement of the decision by Peres and Shohat.

Sabag himself declared: "Justice has now been done."

## Mordechai Eliahu barred from NRP ads

LIAT COLLINS

FORMER Sephardi chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu will not be allowed to participate in the political broadcasts of the National Religious Party, according to a ruling by Central Elections Committee chairman Justice Theodor Orr.

Orr issued the ban following a request by the Movement for Quality Government, saying that Eliahu's role as a judge on the Supreme Rabbinical Court bars him from political involvement.

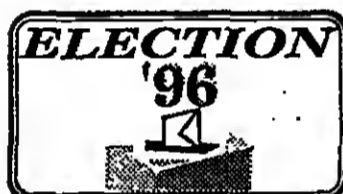
Orr told the NRP and Eliahu they would be violating the law by using him in the party political broadcasts.

Another public service organization filed a complaint with the committee about a broadcast on Educational Television, in which Labor candidate Shlomo Bco-Ami was shown. The association said this violated the ban on showing candidates and MKs for 21 days before the elections.

A broadcast by United Torah Judaism scheduled to be shown last night was canceled after Tel Aviv District Court issued an injunction at the request of the editor of *Technologist* magazine. He requested the ban because the broadcast shows a youth saying he doesn't care if he doesn't have to study Bible, and the picture shows the magazine replacing a Bible on a desk.

## Likud to complain to CEC against Labor

SARAH HONIG



THE Likud will file a complaint with the Central Elections Committee this morning over Labor's "totally spurious claim that the Likud is preparing to intimidate Arab voters."

The complaint will accuse Labor "of spreading malicious disinformation in a transparent attempt to use incitement as a weapon in its Arab sector campaign, as well as to disrupt election day proceedings."

MK Uzi Landau, who heads the Likud's election day organization team, said that "the talk of the Likud hatching schemes to conspire against Arabs on election day is despicable propaganda and a gross fabrication."

He said Labor's claim is a way of compensating for the votes which Operation Grapes of Wrath may have cost it in the Arab sector. "This is Labor's way of again mobilizing support

in the Arab sector. No means are too objectionable for Labor, even hate-mongering and the disruption of the electoral process. This is recklessness at its worst. This is playing with fire," he warned.

He said 80 percent of Likud representatives in polling stations in the Arab sector will come from the specific locality or the nearby area. "Up until election day, we will do our utmost to recruit more locals to represent us. Wherever this will not be possible, we will send representatives from our national pool of volunteers. We will make sure we are represented everywhere, even if Labor finds this a reason to spread dangerous libel."

Likud sources said that Labor really hurt the Likud with its accusations, which were repeated throughout the day on Israel Radio, and no doubt inflamed passions in the Arab sector. The Likud does not expect much support in the Arab sector, but sees the move by Labor as an attempt to shake the Arab voters out of their coolness toward Shimon Peres.

## Settler council: 'No plan' to supervise Arab voting

HERB KEINON

"A COMPLETE fabrication" is how settlement council spokesman Aharon Dorn referred to Labor Party claims that the Likud and the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza are planning to send settlers to Arab towns on election day as polling station supervisors.

"The claims are completely baseless," said Dorn. "It is clear that the purpose of the reports is to inflame the Arabs, so they will vote for Peres."

Dorn said the council is re-

cruiting volunteers to help the parties on election day, but that there is no "master plan" for the volunteers to be posted as supervisors in Arab towns.

However, Dorn said it is inconceivable that volunteers from settlements would be forbidden to go to Arab towns. "Can you imagine what would happen if we said that Arabs are not allowed to come to polling stations in the settlements on election day. Can you imagine what an uproar that would cause?"

## Labor, Meretz blast right wing's 'plan to station settlers at Arab polls'

MICHAL YUDELMAN

LABOR and Meretz yesterday blasted the right wing's reported intention to post settlers from the territories in polling stations in the Arab sector.

Labor sources said that the plan, which was denied by the Likud but confirmed by the settlers, was intended to intimidate the Arab voters in an attempt to deter them from coming to the polls.

Head of Labor's response team, Avraham Burg, said it was obvious there are plans to put settlers in Arab polling stations, and he could not understand why the Likud was denying it. He warned that Labor would not take such a move lying down.

Meretz leader Moshe Yossi Sarid said "the base intentions of the right wing are obvious: to intimidate the Arabs by signaling to them what they can expect once the Likud rises to power. Maybe now the leaders of the Arab par-

ties realize the significance of abstaining from voting for Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and the dire implications of such an act."

## Women reporters barred from Peres-Baba Baruch talks

MICHAL YUDELMAN

WOMEN journalists invited to cover Prime Minister Shimon Peres's meeting with Rabbi Baruch Abuhatzira (Baba Baruch) in Netivot yesterday, were not permitted to attend the meeting due to his objection.

The journalists were invited to accompany Peres on his visit to Abuhatzira to ask for his support in the election. But on Sunday night, women journalists were advised by Labor spokesman Yoram Dori that Abuhatzira would not let them be in the meeting room, and they would be asked to wait in another room until the meeting was over.

The women journalists decided not to go, since they would be unable to cover the meeting.

Dori said Labor had no choice but to accept Abuhatzira's condition. "He is the host, and he didn't want women journalists. It's not true that Labor is groveling before religious leaders. It's his home, and it's his right."

But after the meeting, Abuhatzira denied that he had refused to allow women to attend.

Abuhatzira called on his followers to vote for Peres and the National Religious Party. In the last election, he backed Agudat Yisrael.

ברוך דיין האמת

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

**Prof. CHAIM RABIN ז"ל**

Wife: Betya  
 Daughter and son-in-law: Yemima and Jeff Barak  
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The funeral took place yesterday.  
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 From the United States: Rabbi Bruce S. Warshel.

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**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Worker's arm, hand sliced off by saw**  
 A worker using an electric saw to do renovations in a Ramat Gan cultural center had one arm and the other hand cut off yesterday.  
 The saw slipped while he was working and cut his arm off at the elbow. When he tried to get out of the way, his other hand was cut off just above the beginning of the palm. He was rushed to Ichilov Hospital in Tel Aviv, where doctors were trying to reattach his severed arm and hand.

**Meimad endorses Peres**  
 The Meimad secretariat unanimously decided yesterday to endorse the candidacy of Shimon Peres for prime minister, but decided not to support a party. Meimad has also reportedly rejected appeals by several parties to use its name in campaign propaganda.

**Ammonia leak in Haifa**  
 Ammonia leaked out from a container being carried on a truck through the Haifa Bay area yesterday, causing injuries and forcing the closure of a main road for several hours.  
 A passerby and two policemen who came to deal with the incident suffered from gas inhalation and were brought to the hospital.  
 Environment Ministry workers were called in and had the container removed from the area. The ministry is investigating the incident, believed to be caused by improper anchoring of the container on the truck.

**Pedestrian hit by bus**  
 A 60-year-old pedestrian was hit by a bus and seriously injured on King George Street in Tel Aviv yesterday. He was taken to Ichilov Hospital.

**Histadrut selling off assets**  
 The Histadrut leadership yesterday voted to sell seven of its assets, with Histadrut Treasurer MK Haim Oron estimating that the property was worth about \$6.5 million.  
 Oron said the Histadrut generally managed to sell its properties for 20 percent above the prices set by assessors.

**1996 ELECTIONS**

**THE ISSUES IN ENGLISH**

Come and hear each party present its platform.

**NETANYA Wednesday May 15, 7:30 p.m.**  
 Beit Yisrael Community Center  
 19 Yehuda Hanassi  
 Yossi Olmert (Likud)  
 Sali Reshef (Labor)  
 Esther Wachsmann (NRP)  
 Benny Tamkin MK (Meretz)  
 Zvi Weinberg (Yisrael Ba'Aliya)

**TEL AVIV Thursday May 16, 7:30 p.m.**  
 FOR YOUNG ENGLISH SPEAKERS  
 Beit Daniel, 62 Rehov Bnei Dan  
 Avraham Poraz MK (Meretz)  
 Amnon Neubach (Labor)  
 Rachel Sylvetzy (NRP)  
 Danny Danon (Likud)  
 Eli Kashdan (Yisrael Ba'Aliya)

and RA'ANANA, Sunday, May 19, BEERSHEBA, Sunday, May 19, JERUSALEM, Tuesday, May 21, TEL AVIV, Tuesday, May 21, CARMEL, Tuesday, May 21, NAHARIYA, Wednesday, May 22, HAIFA, Monday, May 27. Full details shortly.

Come early, space is limited. Time for questions.  
**Admission NIS 5 (to cover costs)**  
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# B'nai B'rith refutes bankruptcy rumors

MARILYN HENRY  
NEW YORK

B'NAI B'RITH, the world's oldest Jewish fraternal organization, has vehemently denied reports that it is on the verge of financial ruin. "We are shocked by this gross misstatement of facts," said Tommy Beer, the organization's international president. "I cannot say it clearly and strongly enough: B'nai B'rith has no intent to declare bankruptcy, and is definitely not on the verge of any such action." The report, which originally appeared in the current edition of *US News & World Report* and was repeated in *Ha'aretz*, said that while B'nai B'rith is attracting new members in Eastern Europe, there are continuing losses in membership in the US. The organization says it has about 250,000 members, down from 325,000 20 years ago. All Jewish voluntary organizations in the US are facing declining memberships and financial pressures, Beer said in an interview from Richmond, Virginia. The 153-year-old social and philanthropic organization is planning what Beer called a "radical restructuring," its first in a century. Equating a restructuring to financial collapse is irresponsible, Beer said, adding, "We'll be around for another 153 years."

# Sheba doctor calls for sole lung transplant center

JUDY SIEGEL

PROF. Alon Yellin, director of Sheba Hospital's thoracic surgery department, has called on the Health Ministry to "declare one hospital only as the national center for lung transplantation." Hadassah-University Hospital was the first in 1992, and eight of its 16 patients are still alive. Sheba started a year ago, with nine of its 10 patients surviving. The ministry has authorized a third hospital, which does heart transplants, to do lung transplants, but it has not begun yet. Meanwhile, a 51-year-old man who suffered from terminal emphysema yesterday underwent a double-lung transplant at Sheba. Yellin, who headed the team, expected the patient would be breathing on his own within 24 hours of surgery. Yellin advocates single national center policy in the May issue of the *Israel Journal of Medical Sciences*, noting that only 124 medical centers worldwide perform single-lung transplants, and even fewer carry out double-lung and heart-lung transplants. There is only one center each in Denmark, with a population similar in size to Israel, and in the Netherlands, which has almost triple Israel's population. England, with 60 million people, has eight, and the US, with a population of some 250 million, just 77 such centers. Yellin said that having a single lung transplant center here would improve patient selection and results. Hadassah sources said that since it pioneered here in the operations, its initial mortality rate was higher, and that Sheba benefited from Hadassah's experience to boost its patients' survival rate. The survival rates in the two hospitals are now equal.

# Tour guide sparks interreligious flap

A TOUR operator created an interreligious incident last week by bringing a group to a sensitive holy site after hours. According to Uri Mor, director of the Religious Affairs Ministry's department for Christian communities, the tour operator, whom he declined to identify, had taken a group to the Cenacle, the site of the last supper of Jesus, after the site was officially closed for the night. Mor said that the tour operator claimed to have paid for a permit from the private security company employed by the ministry to guard the site. The incident came to light following a sharp letter of complaint from the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land, the Roman Catholic group entrusted by the pope to watch over holy places. The Franciscans are particularly concerned about the Cenacle, because it had belonged to them until the 16th century, when the Muslims claimed it and converted it into a mosque. *Haim Shapiro*



Families demonstrating for better housing opportunities march to the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem yesterday. (Efraim Kilietnik)

# Katzrin amphitheater nearing completion

DAVID RUDGE

WORK on a new amphitheater in Katzrin, which has cost over NIS 1 million to construct and is reportedly one of the biggest in the country, is nearing completion. Local council chairman Sammy Bar-Lev said the outdoor theater, situated in Katzrin park near the excavated ruins of the ancient synagogue, was another example of the ongoing development of the area. He noted that the population of the town had increased by 10 per-

cent in the past year, and work on housing industry, trade and tourism was also continuing. The new amphitheater, with seating for 5,000 people, is being named in honor of Irving and Chema Moskowitz, of Florida, in appreciation of their donations to projects in Israel generally and the Golan in particular. The couple are scheduled to be among the guests at the opening ceremony of the new amphitheater in July.

The new amphitheater is slated to stage plays, concerts and other major events on similar lines to the one in Caesarea. Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry in conjunction with the Local Authorities Union is to present a NIS 250,000 award to the Katzrin local council this week for "efficient financial management." The local council has in the past few years managed to significantly reduce a budgetary deficit of NIS 1 million and balance its books.

# Mass cancellations mar Agritech 96

STEVE RODAN

THOUSANDS of invitees, including numerous Arabs, canceled plans to attend Israel's largest exhibition, Agritech 96, which began last night, because of the recent wave of terrorist bombings and Operation Grapes of Wrath, organizers said. Organizers of the exhibition, held every three years in Tel Aviv, said they had hoped to attract at least 10,000 foreign visitors, including numerous agriculture officials from Arab and Third World countries. In all, 58 countries are represented. But as of yesterday, the first day of the exhibition, only 2,300 foreigners had registered for the conference. Many delegations decided to sharply reduce their numbers over the last few weeks. "There have been cancellations," Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsuri said without elabo-

rating. India, for example, had originally planned to send 1,400 people to Agritech. But as of yesterday only 500 had registered, organizers said. "The images of bombings and the fighting in Lebanon gave the impression that the whole area here was exploding," one organizer said. "This severely reduced the number of participants." Several of the pavilions in the exhibition were empty. The Palestinian Authority exhibition, which was to be accompanied by 500 Palestinians, appeared abandoned. Organizers said the Palestinians had not yet obtained the Israeli permits needed to leave the territories. The Egyptian pavilion was also empty. The Egyptians were said to

have missed their plane to Tel Aviv last night. The exhibition ends on Thursday. The Jordanian pavilion was manned by Rami Maayah, an official of the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centers Corporation. He said some 100 Jordanians were to have attended to the exhibition but so far only a handful arrived. "I am waiting for my people to arrive," he said. "I'm not even supposed to be manning the pavilion." Organizers said Morocco had also sent a delegation to the convention. They are being joined by individuals from Tunisia and several Gulf states. Dan Meiri, managing director of Agritech, said he expects 7,000 foreign visitors to arrive. They will join the 80,000 Israelis who are expected to attend the exhibition.

# Katzrin high school open 24 hours

DAVID RUDGE

A HIGH school on the Golan Heights has initiated an innovative project aimed at helping pupils, especially those studying for matriculation exams: keeping the school open 24 hours a day. The principal, staff and management of the school in Katzrin are keeping the doors open after normal school hours so that pupils can study there. The spokesman for the Katzrin local council said the school has been open 24 hours a day since the beginning of May and will continue to be so until the matriculation exams. He said some staff stayed at the school in the evening and computers were available for use as well as the library to help pupils with research and relevant information. "The idea is to create an atmosphere of a marathon whenever the pupils, after normal school lessons, want to study. The project, which is the first of its kind in the country as far as we are aware, is proving very successful," he said.

"Of the 1,650 pupils at the school, at least half are coming to study in their own time when they are not under pressure and many stay through the night," said the spokesman. The project is being financed by the school itself out of its own budgets, although the local council is prepared to offer financial assistance should it be necessary. He served as president of the Israel Association for Applied Linguistics. Rabin nurtured an entire generation of teachers of, and researchers into the Hebrew language and many of them continue to apply his theories and practices. He leaves behind a wife, Batya, a daughter Yemima, and three grandchildren. *Batsheva Tsuri*

# Prof. Chaim Rabin dies at 80

PROF. Chaim Rabin, one of the world's leading researchers into modern and ancient Hebrew and other Semitic languages, died yesterday in Jerusalem at 80. Rabin, a professor emeritus at the Hebrew University, was buried yesterday evening at Har Hamenuhot. Born in Gussen, Germany, Rabin got his early education at Jewish day schools. In 1923, the family came to Palestine and his father, Yisrael Avraham Rabin, served as a rabbi in Haifa. The young Rabin spent a year studying at Hebrew University, then left for the University of

London, where he completed his studies in Semitic languages. In 1939, he was awarded a doctorate in Arabic and began teaching at the Institute for Oriental Studies in London. In 1943, he received a second doctorate - in Hebrew language and literature - from Oxford University, where he was also a reader in Hebrew language. He returned to the Hebrew University in 1957 as professor of Hebrew language, and taught there until his retirement in 1985. Concurrently, he was a member of the Hebrew Language Academy. A prolific researcher, Rabin's

scientific work earned him the admiration of both colleagues and students. He published hundreds of articles and numerous books in the fields of linguistics, Hebrew language, and Semitic languages and made an immeasurable contribution to the teaching of Hebrew and translation of the language by linking his theories to practice. Among his many public offices, he served as president of the Israel Association for Applied Linguistics. Rabin nurtured an entire generation of teachers of, and researchers into the Hebrew language and many of them continue to apply his theories and practices. He leaves behind a wife, Batya, a daughter Yemima, and three grandchildren. *Batsheva Tsuri*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Police doubt kidnapping claim**  
Investigators yesterday were doubtful about a Jewish teenager's claim Arabs tried to kidnap him in north Jerusalem Sunday night as he was hitching a ride home.

The 19-year-old from Mishor Adumim told police that he took a ride at the French Hill interchange in a car whose driver and front seat passenger spoke in Hebrew with an Arabic accent, only to be beaten with a club at gunpoint after being taken only a short way. He said he jumped out of the car when it slowed. Police sources said the youth's story was being investigated, but that the initial checks showed that it was apparently unfounded. *Bill Human*

**Marijuana plants found on traffic island**  
A number of marijuana plants were discovered growing on a traffic island on Jerusalem's Bevo-Zvi Boulevard yesterday. A passerby discovered the plants near a rendition of the Statue of Liberty, donated by New York City, across from the rear entrance to the Foreign Ministry, and reported this to the police. The plants were destroyed. *Itim*

**Demonstrations now permitted at airport**  
Demonstrations are to be permitted at Ben-Gurion Airport according to new instructions issued by Transportation Minister Yisrael Kessar. The new regulations were issued in response to a petition to the High Court of Justice which the Association for Civil Rights in Israel filed three years ago. *Evelyn Gordon*

**Emergency hot line gets new number**  
ERAN, the emergency emotional first-aid service, can now be reached by dialing 1201, as well as the conventional sixor seven-digit number in each locality. Bezeq said the voluntary organization's director, Nava Peri, had requested the special number and the company cooperated. *Judy Siegel*

**Woman injured in robbery**  
A woman, 27, was injured in the head during a robbery in Jaffa late Sunday night. Three masked men burst into her apartment, threatened her with a pistol, tied her up, then fled with her jewelry and NIS 400 in cash. Police later arrested two suspects. *Itim*

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Lecture:  
Professor David S. Katz  
Incumbent of The Abraham Horodisch Chair for the History of Books  
The Jew in the Crown: England and her Jews  
Slide Presentation:  
Ruth Maoz, Architect  
on Thursday, 16 May 1996 at 4:30 p.m.  
Auditorium 01, The Bob Shapell School of Social Work  
Tel Aviv University Campus, Ramat Aviv  
The public is invited

JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY   
Information and Public Relations Department  
Guided Tours of the Municipality Complex  
On Yom Yerushalayim the Information and Public Relations Department of the Municipality will offer guided tours of the Municipality Complex.  
The tours will take place on Thursday, May 16, 1996 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
In Hebrew- from 9 a.m. every hour on the hour.  
In English- 10 a.m., 12 noon, 2 p.m.  
In Russian- 10 a.m.  
In French- 10 a.m.  
In Spanish- 10 a.m.  
Meeting place at the entrance to Safra Square, on Jaffa Road, behind the palm trees, on right side.  
The tours are free of charge

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the hundreds of KKL-JNF friends who hold Jerusalem dear and come from all parts of the globe to express their solidarity with Israel's capital on its 3,000th anniversary, and to bestow on Jerusalem, on its day of festivity, the gifts of KKL Park Jerusalem 3,000 and Gan Yaldei Israel.  
With your help and assistance it shall all come true.

# Everest disaster covered by the Net

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — In bitter cold and howling winds, with the peak of Mount Everest just 150 meters above him, Rob Hall probably knew he was going to die when he called his pregnant wife on his fading radio to say goodbye.

Hall, who had climbed the world's highest mountain five times before, stayed back in a futile effort to help American climber Doug Hansen, who was ill and struggling.

They were caught without a tent or sleeping bag when a blizzard swept the mountain on Friday, said Geoff Gabites, a close friend of Hall, speaking in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Yesterday, Seaborn B. Weathers, another American who was thought to have died on Everest, was plucked off a mountain slope used as a helipad in the world's highest helicopter rescue mission.

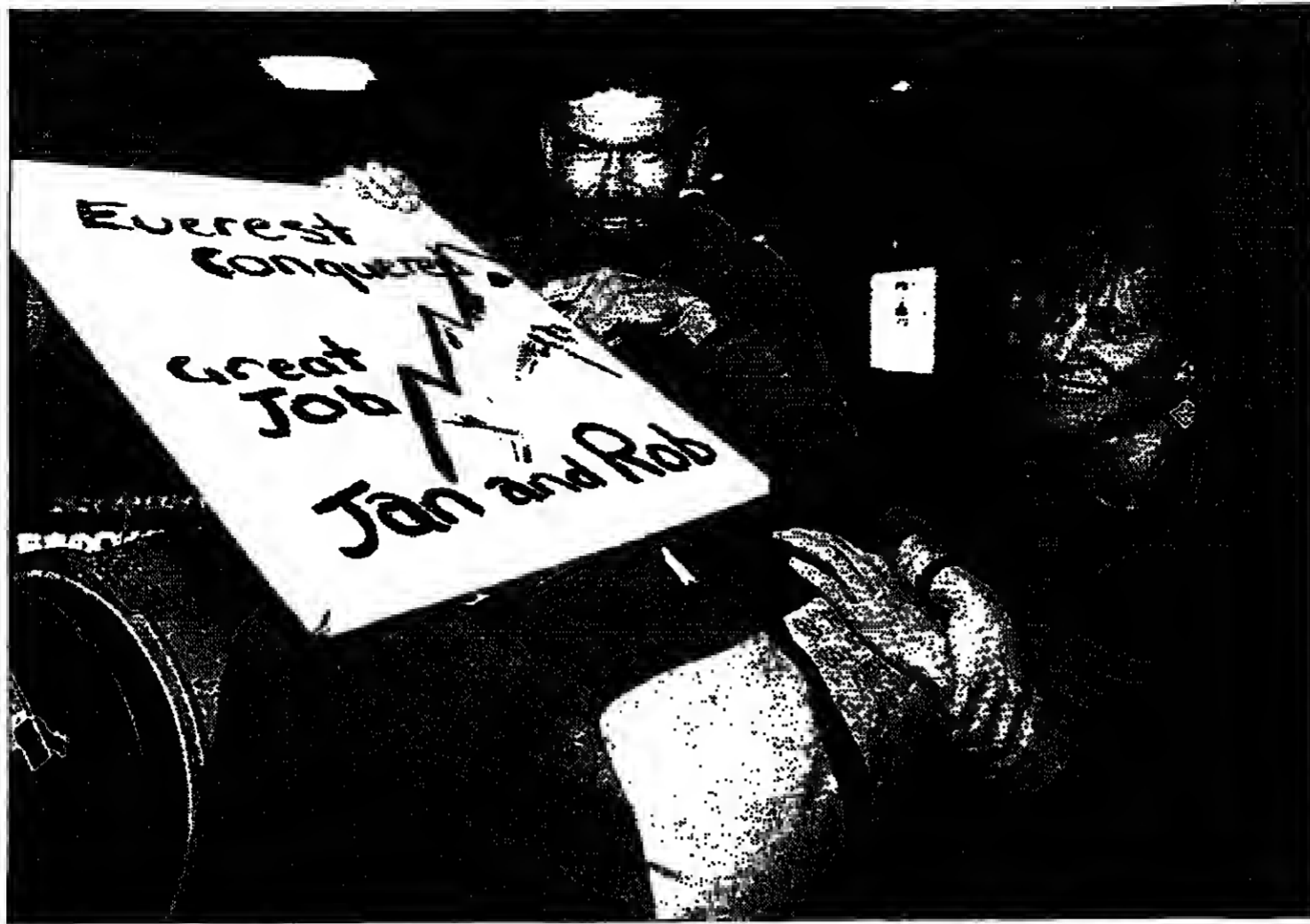
But eight others, including Hansen and Hall of New Zealand, perished this weekend, in one of the worst disasters on Everest's peak — and the first expedition to run live on the Internet.

They were two Americans, two New Zealanders, and a Japanese. Three Indians, who had begun their ascent from the Chinese side of Everest, were missing and presumed dead by Indian authorities.

Hall and Hansen of Renton, Washington, were trapped without oxygen, fluids or protection. Hall was able to make a last call his wife Jan at their home in Christchurch, said Gabites, chief executive of the Adventure Tourism Council.

"A bivouac without equipment 150 meters below the summit in bad weather means at the very least you're going to get frostbite and it could go right through to death," said Peter Hillary, who climbed Everest with Hall six years ago. "He would have been aware of that."

Since Peter's father, Sir Edmund Hillary, conquered it 43 years ago, Everest's summit has



Climber Rob Hall, with his wife in a 1993 file photo at Christchurch Airport. Hall died this weekend while trying to scale Mt. Everest. (Reuters)

been reached 629 times. Thousands more climbers came close. The elder Hillary himself has complained that the track is now so familiar that it has become a tourist mountain.

But that hardly reduces the danger. More than 100 people have been killed on its icy slopes. Their bodies remain frozen and irretrievable in crevices or under shifting snow and rock.

Near the 8,848-meter peak, most people need a tank of oxygen. Dehydration in the arid atmosphere can kill. High winds bring swift changes of weather,

and the temperature is normally minus 40C at night.

At least 11 expeditions were on the mountain this weekend, with each climber paying \$10,000 in license fees. A Danish expedition turned its base camp into a hospital at 6,600 meters.

Nepal has no rescue procedures for climbers in danger, and requires each expedition to take responsibility for its own safety.

On Friday, Scott Fischer, of Seattle, Washington, was about 305 meters below Hansen and Hall when Nepalese sherpa guides found him and Makalu Gao, the

leader of a Japanese expedition. Both were unconscious.

The sherpas could not carry both men out. They revived Gao and brought him down. They then bundled Fischer, gave him oxygen and clipped him to a rope, hoping that rescuers could reach him later.

"Scott has been up there two days now," his business partner, Karen Dickinson, told *Outside Online* magazine Sunday. "When he was last seen, he was near death after just two hours in the storm. So there's no way he could still be alive." The expedition was planned as the first to be chronicled almost

instantly on the Internet.

The technology didn't work the way Scott Fischer and his backers had hoped, but he can still be seen and heard describing the ascent of Mount Everest on the Wide World Web after the apparent rescue attempt in which he died.

*Outside Online*, the Internet magazine published by Starwave Corp. of Bellevue, Washington, was unable to receive e-mail from the climbers' laptop computers because of trouble connecting with an Australian satellite on the world's highest peak, managing editor Jeff Herr said.

# Swampy crash site yields no remains

News agencies  
MIAMI

THE Florida Everglades — a desolate, flat expanse of sawgrass, water, muck and wildlife — stubbornly refused to give up its secrets about the fatal flight of a ValuJet DC-9, forcing searchers who had been using sticks and hands to call on Monday for high-tech equipment to help find the wreckage.

Federal aviation officials, who have investigated fatal crashes on steep mountains and the ocean floor, said the site where all 109 passengers and crew perished presented them with the most difficult search conditions ever.

Over the weekend, searchers moved slowly through the muck, using sticks and their hands to grope for any wreckage or bodies.

On Sunday evening, the first human remains were recovered by teams using airboats, Miami's WSVN-TV station reported. Witnesses at the scene told Reuters they saw body bags loaded into vans bound for the county morgue, but a spokeswoman for the medical examiner said she could not confirm the report.

Authorities have called off the search for possible survivors of the crash of ValuJet Flight 592, which nose-dived into the Everglades with 104 passengers and five crew members.

Concern about alligators and poisonous snakes, temperatures above 27C with high humidity, mosquitoes and up to 12 meters of mud and dead grass blocked efforts to recover bodies.

The DC-9 had been in the air only eight minutes on a Saturday flight to Atlanta when crew members reported smoke in the cockpit. They attempted to turn around but the plane crashed about 25 km northwest of Miami International Airport. The source of the smoke was unknown.

Tapes of the conversation between a male crew member and the airport tower indicate there also was smoke in the passenger cabin, National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chairman Robert Francis said at a news conference.

"As the conversation went on there was in the view of the controller and in the view of the people who listened to the tape ... a considerable sense of urgency on the part of the pilot," Francis said.

Gregory Feith, NTSB investigator in charge, said the last intelligible transmission from the plane

was the crew member's acknowledgment of a request to turn back, assignment of a new descent altitude and the location of the nearest airport.

Investigators have located the plane's two engines, but did not expect to find large portions of the plane intact, Francis said.

Francis said much of the wreckage in the swampy waters is painted blue, which is the color ValuJet paints the rear of its planes, where the flight data and cockpit voice recorders are located.

Finding the blue plane sections encouraged investigators they would recover the recorders, Francis said. "The devices are key to understanding what happened to the plane and what was said in the final moments before the crash."

The swamp yielded pieces of clothing in addition to a family photo album and a floating airplane seat that were found earlier.

"There's no evidence of the plane. It's gone," said Bret Rugg, 41, whose wife Terri was on the plane. He had taken his two sons, ages 5 and 11, to meet their mother on her return from a cruise she made as a travel agency owner.

Also among the passengers was US football player Rodney Culver and his wife, Karen.

ValuJet, a discount airline, has had at least three accidents since it began operations in 1993. The most serious was a runway fire last year that destroyed a plane.

Workers at the remote crash site spent the morning trying to determine how to recover the remains and wreckage.

"If they're out of here before two weeks I'll be surprised," said Detective Ed Munn.

Divers wore protective rubber suits after suffering irritated skin yesterday from aviation fuel and hydraulic fluid. They searched the muck by hand, unable to see more than a few centimeters in front of them in the water.

ValuJet Airlines Inc. President Lewis Jordan said he took full responsibility for the crash, but added there was no indication anything was wrong before the 27-year-old plane took off. A list of the plane's past problems showed nothing out of the ordinary, he said.

Federal Aviation Administration records showed the jet had returned to airports seven times in two years because of various maintenance problems, from an oil leak to loss of cabin pressure.

## British 'spy' is Russian official

MOSCOW (Reuters) — A Russian whose arrest on suspicion of spying for Britain sparked a spying row between Moscow and London is a young official at the Russian foreign ministry, Interfax news agency said yesterday.

"He is a quite young man, a middle-ranking diplomat who had good prospects for the future," the agency said, quoting informed sources in Moscow.

"To our greatest regret, there was a black sheep in the family," an unnamed foreign ministry official told Interfax.

The man has been charged with treason, the maximum penalty for which is death.

His arrest triggered a dispute between Russia and Britain last week and Moscow's announcement on May 6 that it planned to expel up to nine British diplomats it said were spies.

Such a large-scale expulsion would make it one of the biggest post-Cold War diplomatic incidents.

Some analysts speculated it was

related to next month's presidential election, where President Boris Yeltsin faces a tough challenge from anti-western communist Gennady Zyuganov.

Britain has indicated it would match any expulsions with tit-for-tat action of its own.

But both Moscow and London, one of President Boris Yeltsin's biggest backers in the West, have clamped a news blackout on moves behind the scenes to work out a compromise.

"Contacts are continuing," a spokesman for the British embassy in Moscow said yesterday. He refused to comment when asked if any diplomats had already left.

The alleged Russian agent was said to have been arrested as he made contact with his British controllers. The Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) said he had handed over political and strategic defense information to the British.

Talks between the British ambassador in Moscow, Sir Andrew Wood, and the Russian Foreign Ministry to stop the affair damaging diplomatic ties began almost immediately.

Russia's Victory Day public holidays last week and the absence from Moscow of Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov have further slowed progress to a solution.

## Priebke's lawyer: Client obeyed legitimate order

ROME (AP) — The massacre of 335 civilians was legitimate revenge for the bombing deaths of German soldiers and should not be punished as a war crime, the defense lawyer for a former Nazi officer said yesterday.

Erich Priebke was "following an order that he thought legitimate because it was a legitimate order of reprisal," Velio Di Rezze told the military court.

Di Rezze, giving his first detailed statement on the defense strategy for the 82-year-old former SS captain, insisted Priebke would have "faced the firing squad" if he refused to carry out the 1944 slayings in caves outside Rome.

Priebke is accused of a central role in the massacre, ordered in retaliation for a bombing by resistance fighters that killed 32 German soldiers. The victims included two Catholic priests, a 14-year-old boy and 75 Jews.

Priebke has said he killed two of the victims and called out the names of 100 others who were led to the caves and shot.

"Erich Priebke has his moral responsibility, but what the court has to decide on is his legal responsibility," Di Rezze said.

Priebke, who was extradited from Argentina last year, attended the session. He sat quietly as Di Rezze detailed his case.

If convicted, Priebke could be sentenced to life imprisonment.

Di Rezze also asked the judge to reject the testimony of nearly 85 people — ranging from relatives of victims to rabbis — cited by attorneys in a civil suit. The civil prosecution, filed by the victims' relatives, has been incorporated into the military trial.

"What sense is there in inviting here six or seven rabbis from all over the world? They are irrelevant," Di Rezze told the court.

"If you decide to make this a trial on genocide, then approve all the witnesses. Otherwise, your rule makes no sense," he concluded.

Judge Agostino Quistelli is expected to make his decision on the full witness list tomorrow, the next scheduled court session.

Quistelli said he would reconsider allowing the testimony of 89-year-old Dietrich Bechtel, a former SS officer in Rome, who prosecutors say can prove Priebke's key role in ordering the massacre.

As Di Rezze criticized the proposals for wide-ranging testimonies, Felice Napoli, one of the possible witnesses, started screaming at Priebke and was led from the courtroom.

## Russia confirms IRA-Estonia contacts

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's Federal Security Agency confirmed yesterday that IRA emissaries contacted an Estonian paramilitary organization and other groups to try to purchase weapons.

But a spokesman for the counterintelligence and security agency, known under its Russian acronym of FSB, said Russia has no information on actual arms purchases by the IRA.

The disclosure followed a report by the ITAR-Tass news agency a week ago that FSB believes the IRA has bought sniper rifles, machine guns and explosives on the black market in Estonia.

The report, citing unidentified

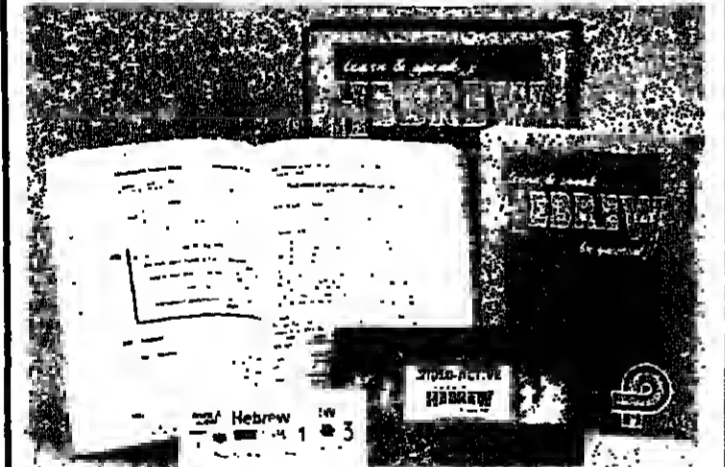
FSB sources, said the IRA got the weapons from Kaitseleit, a paramilitary organization that is part of the state defense structure.

Estonia's ambassador to Russia has denied the report.

But FSB spokesman Mikhail Kirilin told the Baltic News Service that the IRA had contacted representatives of Kaitseleit and certain non-government groups, which Russian intelligence has long suspected of smuggling weapons from Estonia to Russia.

"Information about such contacts has been collected over a long period of time, therefore I cannot say when exactly they took place," Kirilin said.

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## Jerusalem Day Celebrations 1996

Wednesday, May 15, 8:30 p.m. ICC — Gala Concert with the participation of the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra and the IDF Orchestra — conducted by Maestro Yitzhak Graziani.

Thursday, May 16, 7:30 p.m. Jerusalem Day official ceremony on Ammunition Hill (English and Spanish), with the participation of the Chief of Staff, Lt-Gen. Arnon Lipkin-Shahak, Mayor of Jerusalem Ehud Olmert, and other dignitaries.

Friday, May 17, 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. A "Jerusalem Street Carnival," with the participation of actors, dance groups, choirs, bands, clowns, etc., will take over the streets in the center of town.

Friday, May 17, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. "Rejoice with Jerusalem" — a parade of solidarity departing from Safra Square and culminating in an assembly at the Western Wall. With participation of the Minister of Religious Affairs, Prof. Shimon Shetret, Jerusalem Sephardi Chief Rabbi Shalom Mashash, and other dignitaries.

Saturday, May 18, 9:00 p.m. Musical Extravaganza at the Merrill Hassenfeld Open-Air Amphitheater (Sultan's Pool). With the participation of Brazilian singer Fortuna Safdie, Dudu Fisher, Nehama Hendel, Hava Alberstein, Danny Robas, Danny Litani, Natan Cohen, Ori Harpaz, and others.

All events are produced and coordinated by the Jerusalem 3000 Organizing Committee. Tickets: 8imot, 8 Shamai, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-240896, Fax: 02-244535 Klat'm, 12 Shamai, Jerusalem, Tel. 02-256869, Fax: 02-244577 On the eve of the performances, at box offices.

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## Vatican unlikely to respond to Agca plea

VATICAN (Reuters) — The Vatican signaled yesterday it would not respond formally to a plea from Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca to help win his release from a life-prison sentence for the 1981 shooting of Pope John Paul II.

Agca, whose attack 15 years ago yesterday almost killed the Polish-born Pope, told Italian TV in an anniversary interview he had paid enough for his crime and wanted to be set free and expelled from Italy.

"It is a legal problem between Italy and the Vatican," Agca, 38, said in the interview, broadcast from the jail where he is held in Ancona, on the Adriatic coast.

"I ask the Pope and the Vatican to make formal statements in favor of my liberation," Agca said.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Pope, 75, had already forgiven Agca twice.

"For the moment, there is no other initiative," he said. "We have faith in Italian justice."

Navarro-Valls told reporters Agca shot the Pope during a general audience in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981, wounding him in the stomach and hand.

py crash yields remains

# Yeltsin still hopes for reform coalition

MOSCOW (AP) - Promising to meet with another of his rivals for the Russian presidency, Boris Yeltsin insisted yesterday that he was on track to create a coalition of "democratic candidates" for the June 16 election.

Yeltsin has been looking for ways to bring pro-reform candidates over to his side and prevent a victory by his main challenger in the race, Communist candidate Gennady Zyuganov.

"I have agreed with (Alexander) Lebed and (Gaiyur) Yavlinsky on their attitude toward the president and on coordinating our election campaigns, and we'll continue working on further details," Yeltsin said, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Yeltsin announced plans to meet with the surgeon Svyatoslav Fyodorov tomorrow.

If a coalition can be formed, "we'll succeed in winning the election," said Yeltsin.

While both Yavlinsky, an economist, and Lebed, a popular retired general, have held talks with Yeltsin, neither has confirmed plans to form a coalition or agreed to withdraw from the race.

Lebed said at a news conference yesterday he "had not worked so hard to become a registered candidate in order to give it up."

Yavlinsky said he would unite with Yeltsin "only if the president altered his personnel policies" and he was waiting for Yeltsin's decision.

Yavlinsky has severely criticized the war in Chechnya and is believed to be demanding the ouster of "security and defense chiefs."

One possibility is that these candidates could be offered government posts in exchange for joining Yeltsin's team. Yavlinsky and Lebed have denied that any such offers have been made.

Recent polls show Yeltsin, trailing far behind Zyuganov at the start of the campaign, now catching up.

But Communist leaders have cast doubt on the polls showing Yeltsin's progress, saying their own surveys indicate he was far behind Zyuganov. And the Kremlin has shown signs it fears Yeltsin may fall short in the balloting.

Yeltsin's remarks yesterday came in an interview with the host of Russian television's Zerkalo (Mirror) program.

Visiting the station's studios to mark the fifth anniversary of its first news broadcast, Yeltsin said press freedom was one of the main achievements of his government.

"We are still building a market economy, forming a new political culture and creating a new judicial system, but we already have free television, free radio and a free press," Yeltsin said at a meeting of company's journalists and officials.

"But there is a threat of a turning back, the threat of revenge," the president added.

Yeltsin praised the contribution to democracy made by Russian television, which began broadcasting in 1991 before the Soviet breakup, and served as a counterweight to Communist propaganda on the Soviet Union's other channels.

# Indian rivals battle for power

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - India's main communist party said yesterday it would not join a left-wing coalition government, boosting a Hindu nationalist claim to power following indecisive polls.

But analysts said the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the biggest party in a deeply split parliament, still appeared well short of an overall majority and faced mounting opposition from the center-left.

Both the BJP and the leftist National Front-Left Front (NFFLF) have staked claims to power, but neither has proved enough support to win a confidence vote.

The BJP says President Shankar Dayal Sharma should appoint its leader, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as prime minister as the Hindu party emerged as the largest single group in parliament.

But the NFFLF, which has support from a range of parties opposed to the BJP's perceived anti-Muslim bias, said it would end up with the biggest bloc.

In a surprise move, the Communist Party of India-

Marxist (CPI-M), the leading communist component of the NFFLF, said it would support any non-BJP alliance but not join the government.

Fran Chopra, an analyst with the Center for Policy Research, said the CPI-M's move reflected its reluctance to link up with caretaker Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress party, which suffered its worst defeat.

Bitter adversaries during the campaign, Congress and the main component of the NFFLF, the Janata Dal, have been thrust towards each other by a common opposition to the BJP, which they accuse of discriminating against Muslims.

But the CPI-M will have no truck with Congress, which the communists accuse of corruption.

The CPI-M's decision to stay out of any left-wing government meant its octogenarian leader, Jyoti Basu, appeared to be out of the running for the prime minister's job. It also put pressure on Sharma to look first to the BJP to form a government.

# Test ban treaty in sight

GENEVA (AP) - After more than 30 years of trying, the world stands on the brink of outlawing nuclear test explosions for all time.

But with six weeks to the target date for completion of a test ban treaty, China and India are holding back.

Delegations from 93 countries arrive in Geneva yesterday to begin a new session of the Conference on Disarmament. Its goal: a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The time is right, negotiators say, for the treaty to be concluded this year. The June target, however, is daunting.

"The insane competition in nuclear technology has reduced," said Sverre Lodgaard, director of

the UN Institute for Disarmament Research. The treaty is not a certainty, but we are close."

The United States, Britain and France all agree on a total ban for nuclear explosions, including the smallest laboratory tests. Russia formally agreed to go along with this definition late last month.

China is alone among the five declared nuclear powers in insisting on the right to use nuclear explosions for peaceful means, such as large-scale construction projects.

This has met with total disapproval among the negotiating nations, who say it is impossible to tell the difference between peaceful and non-peaceful explosions.



A prisoner accused of fighting with Roosevelt Johnson's ULIMO-J pleads for his life before a group of ULIMO-K militia yesterday. (Reuters)

# Liberia gunmen shake hands

GUNMEN from rival factions in Liberia's civil war shook hands across the front line in the center of the capital Monrovia yesterday, saying they wanted peace - and some kicked around a skull as if to seal the deal.

But just down the road the body of a freshly killed fighter suggested that despite a two-day lull in fighting, any truce was likely to be fragile at best.

"We are trying to put things right together. We want to make peace ourselves," Colonel Haiti, an ethnic Krahn fighter, said after shaking hands with a group of rival fighters on a rubbish-strewn street near the seafont.

"We make peace with the people. I shook hands with their commander," General House Breaker, 27, of the rival National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) said after a similar handshaking just round the block.

"Stop the war. Save the future leaders of Liberia," one banner left standing in an impromptu demilitarized zone said.

But elsewhere, occasional shots rang out and not 200 meters from where Colonel Haiti was talking peace, two fellow Krahn taken prisoner waited to hear their fate.

An uneasy silence hung over the streets that resembled some inner city wasteland wrecked by weeks of gang warfare in which young

men's word is law.

Some streets were deserted. In others, civilians scavenged or transported the scarce necessities of everyday life.

On one corner, West African peacekeepers tried to clear a passage through a gaggle of gunmen for women carrying food. "This is the corridor for the market women, we need to keep it clear," one Nigerian soldier shouted.

Ghana is seeking to persuade an aging freighter with thousands of Liberian refugees on board to return to Monrovia, saying peacekeepers have created a safe haven.

In the city center, however, there was no sign of peacekeepers extending the area under their control although relief group Medecins Sans Frontieres took advantage of the lull to transport badly needed medicine to the Barclay Training Center barracks, which has been at the center of fighting.

Inside, General Philip Kamah, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of Liberia, the former national army, said Krahn sheltering there were respecting a truce call from Liberia's West African neighbors. "We want peace. We do not want pieces," he said, accusing his

rivals of breaking the truce.

Several blocks away, on the other side of the front line, supporters of NPFL leader Charles Taylor, who launched the war in 1989, said the ruling Council of State had called a truce and they would respect it. Taylor is a Council vice-chairman.

"The high command have said no shooting," Michael Miller, 28, a chauffeur turned gunman. "We respect the cease-fire."

Gunmen agreed a similar truce on the front-line last week. That one failed to hold. A truce last month held for 10 days.

Freed American slaves set up Liberia as Africa's first republic in 1847. The war has killed more than 150,000 people.

Fighting flared on April 6 after the ruling Council ordered the arrest of Krahn faction leader Roosevelt Johnson on murder charges after a clash with faction rivals.

Forces loyal to Taylor and fellow vice-chairman Alhaji Kromah tried to arrest Johnson. Ethnic Krahn, who broke the stranglehold of the slaves' descendants on power and ruled through the 1980s, rallied to Johnson.

Little has been heard from Taylor in person for a couple of weeks but his radio station Kiss FM has been broadcasting slogans calling for the fighting to end. (Reuters)

# 'Cigarette mafia' slaying claims seven in Berlin

BERLIN (AP) - Seven men were killed execution-style in what police yesterday called "a new peak of brutality" in violent "cigarette mafia" turf battles.

The bodies of six men, all asylum seekers from Quang Binh province in Vietnam, were found Sunday night in a two-room apartment in eastern Berlin. Each had been tied up and shot twice in the head at close range.

Two women out horseback riding found the body of another Vietnamese man in a meadow just south of Berlin. Officials in Poesdam said he had also been bound and shot in the head, but they did not know whether his death

was related to the killings in Berlin.

A senior Berlin police investigator, Detlef Schade, said all six of the Berlin victims were involved in selling smuggled cigarettes. A brother of one of the men found the bodies, police believe they had been dead since at least Friday night.

Schade called the killings "a new peak of brutality... both quantitatively and qualitatively" in the running battle between two Vietnamese-dominated groups for control of the lucrative trade in Berlin.

Twelve Vietnamese have been killed so far this year in the city - equaling the total for all of 1995.

# Turk coalition in slush-fund row

ANKARA (Reuters) - A scandal over \$65 million missing from a secret government slush fund rocked Turkey's conservative coalition yesterday, already reeling from infighting over a string of corruption charges.

A cabinet member accused Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz of trying to discredit coalition partner Tansu Ciller by revealing her use of the fund during her term as premier.

"Only the prime minister or his adviser has access to this kind of

secret document. It couldn't have come from a third person," said Yalin Erez, the trade and industry minister and a Ciller confidante. Yilmaz has not commented.

Turkish newspapers at the weekend gave wide coverage to a leaked document purporting to show that Ciller had taken \$6.5m. from the fund, intended mostly for shadowy security operations, a couple of weeks before she handed over power to Yilmaz.

# Museveni win seen as vote for Uganda peace

KAMPALA - Victory for Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni is a resounding vote for peace for Ugandans haunted by bloodshed under past dictators.

But despite being credited with Uganda's economic miracle through implementing Western-backed economic reforms since 1991, the 52-year-old president in the next five years will still have to come to grips with some old and growing problems.

"For most people it was a case of Museveni being the devil they know, the benign despot who through the NRM (National Resistance Movement) has ruled for a decade," a diplomat said.

"It was a big jump into the unknown to choose anyone else," he added. "Even I would have some nightmares about the future if Paul Ssemogerere's team was now moving into State House."

Some analysts forecast that if 64-year-old Ssemogerere, the main opposition candidate, had won last week's presidential poll then the army, drawn from

ANALYSIS  
PETER SMERDON

Museveni's guerrilla force, might have rebelled.

Ssemogerere and rank outsider Mohamed Mayanja have accused Museveni of rigging the election and have rejected the results.

Their evidence was fairly flimsy but it is undoubtedly true Museveni had a large advantage in the poll as the incumbent with the NRM's machinery to ease his way back to State House.

Asked what they wanted most from the election, Ugandans from the capital to tiny mud-brick villages deep in the lush countryside usually replied with just one word: peace.

"The middle classes see Museveni as the security that will allow them to keep making money," said Wafula Ogutu, editor-in-chief of the Monitor newspaper, adding that for the vast majority of poor Ugandans he also still represented stability.

But Museveni's 74.2 percent win also brought some dangers.

The president could take his popular endorsement as a blank vote of confidence - despite shortcomings of his rule.

After his swearing in on Sunday, Museveni told supporters the poll showed his own home-grown style of African democracy, which includes a ban on multi-party politics, was working.

Diplomats had said Museveni might see a strong victory as a justification to work against lifting the ban on multi-party politics, the subject of a referendum scheduled for 2000.

They said it might also mean he saw little reason to crack down on some corrupt followers, who after a decade in power and with the economy expanding increasingly incline towards graft.

Ugandan analysts however argue the West is also to blame.

They said donors pump in aid despite Museveni's democratic shortcomings because of Uganda's economic recovery and their fears that without a strong president anarchy might return. (Reuters)

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## The terrorist impact

It is a pity that Labor spokesmen reacted to the lethal terrorist incident in Beit-El yesterday with a knee-jerk response. To say that the only solution to terrorism is the permanent separation of Israelis from Palestinians is to deliberately mislead. And while political parties are not expected to be paragons of pristine honesty during an election campaign, the scourge of terrorism is far too grave an issue to be distorted for campaign purposes. Unfortunately, the slogan is used after every terrorist strike. But it is no less misleading now than it was after the first bus bombing on Dizengoff. Even if a Palestinian state is established on the 1949 lines, there is no way to separate the two peoples in this country.

Trying to cover all points, Labor also likes to quote former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir, who once said that there is no total solution to terrorism. The implication is that terrorist killings are an unavoidable component of contemporary life, about which nothing can be done—a regrettable phenomenon like traffic accidents with which Israelis had better learn to live. Labor officials have even pointed to a terrorist incident like the Oklahoma City bombing as a case in point.

But such comparisons are even more misleading. In the US, terrorist incidents are as rare as they are exceptional. Nor are they part of a sustained war against the nation's existence. On a per capita basis, there would have had to be 80 bombings like the Oklahoma City explosion in a period of 32 months, with the number of deaths surpassing 11,000, to compare with the toll taken by Palestinian terrorism in Israel since the signing of the Oslo accords. If Jews and Israeli terror victims abroad are also counted, the number would increase by another 6,000.

Nor can there be a comparison between a state of conflict described by Shamir, in which terrorism is an expected corollary, and what is supposed to be a state of peace, in which terrorism should be an anomaly.

Perhaps the most puzzling fact about acts of terrorism, is that only those which prove lethal make the headlines. The shooting at Beit-El was the 31st "nationalistically motivated" assault in Judea-Samaria in the past month. None of these incidents has caused deaths—most have been unsuccessful attacks by petrol bombs, firearms and knives that ended with relatively minor injuries. But the deadly intent is there.

Nor are these the only potentially deadly incidents. The General Security Service yesterday announced the apprehension of a Jordanian would-be suicide bomber, trained by Islamic Jihad in Syria. Other bombers are occasionally reported to have blown themselves up while preparing explosives. But as long as there are no casualties, the press and the public ignore such news.

Terrorist acts are generally viewed as damaging to Labor in the current campaign. They are, after all, a commentary on the progress of the Oslo process. Attempting to forestall the damage, Labor couples its call for "separation" and assertions that terrorism is endemic to the area with the charge that the anti-peace elements in the Arab world are allied in a conspiracy to topple the Labor government.

Under less pressured circumstances this would be dismissed as laughable. There is little logic in claiming that terrorism is inevitable no matter what happens in the political arena, but that it is now employed in the service of the Likud. Carrying this charge to its logical conclusion, one must assume that once these anti-peace elements achieve their purpose and bring the Likud to power, they will stop terrorism for fear of returning the "peace camp" to government.

Concomitantly, and with equal logic, Labor avers that if the Likud wins, the 80 percent of Palestinians who have presumably joined the circle of peacemakers will revert to violence. But this only means that the commitment to peace of this majority is so tenuous that a change in Israel's government will convert Palestinians now in Yasser Arafat's camp from peace seekers to terrorists—hardly an encouraging thought about the validity of the process.

That this kind of confusion afflicts not only politicians who try to rationalize terrorism to the electorate was evident yesterday in the army's reaction to the shooting. Two army jeeps standing at the scene not only failed to deter the terrorists; they failed to respond to the attack. It took the large army base in the vicinity more than 30 minutes to send men to the scene. They should have been there within five minutes at the most. And the terrorists managed to dump their car and get into another vehicle without being pursued.

That they escaped to Ramallah is hardly surprising. Even if they are apprehended by the Palestinian Police and sentenced to life in prison in one of those exemplary two-minute trials, they can be certain of being released as soon as the Knesset elections are over.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE PEACE PROCESS

Sir, — Voices in the European Union, led by France, have joined with the PLO in demanding that Israel open its borders to Arab workers. It is claimed that Arab support for the peace process is slipping because thousands of innocent Palestinians are unjustly prevented from working in Israel. The complainants show no concern for the 61 recent victims of Arab terror or for the danger that would be caused by succeding to their demands.

In listening to these demands, Israel should remember that it was France which supplied the Iraqis with a nuclear reactor for making A-bombs from which the IAF saved an unappreciative world. In regard to the Arabs, while it is true that the actual bombers number only a handful, these are supported by most of the population in the "Territories." The mosques, schools and universities there feature an incessant diatribe against Jews that would make Goebbels proud. Arafat's eulogy of the "engineer" bomber should have ended wishful belief among Israeli's that Hamas and Jihad terrorists are isolated in the Palestinian community.

Recent polls reveal, while 75 percent of the Arabs supported the peace process, an equal majority

were opposed to any permanent Jewish state within "Green Line" Palestine. In other words, even among Arabs who now support "peace," a majority view the "peace process" not as a reconciliation, but as a means to destroy Israel.

According to Peres, Israel "defeats the enemies of peace" by continuing the "peace process." Thus, after every terrorist outrage, the government vows to continue the Oslo peace process (by giving land to Arafat), in order not to "give in" to "the enemies of peace." So far, Hamas doesn't seem impressed by this novel way of fighting terror and its bombers, thanks to Oslo, are plotting more murder, free from IDF interference, in Gaza.

Arabs are not burdened with reciprocal concerns with the welfare of Jews as Jewish liberals are for Arabs. There are no apologists for Israel among Arabs. They may disagree over means, but not ends. Most regard every bombing as a blow against their enemy, forcing Israel to abandon more territory.

Real peace will not come until Palestinians give up their hope of destroying Israel and educate their children accordingly.

DAVID C. GOODMAN  
Jacksonville, Florida.

### LIKUD PEACE POLICY

Sir, — It is difficult to imagine a policy more likely to intensify Arab fear, resentment and hatred than that proposed in your editorial of May 3, "Hebron as parable."

You declare that "overall responsibility for security" must be "in Israeli hands everywhere between the Jordan River and the sea." In particular, you object to the proposal to withdraw from most of Hebron and keep the IDF in the Jewish part of the city. This means that Israeli troops will be able to knock on any Arab door in the Gaza Strip, Judea and Samaria at midnight to search for arms or suspected terrorists.

No one on the right, whose policies are defended in your editorial with such admirable clarity, has even hinted that the Palestinians will be enabled to vote in parliamentary elections.

Under such conditions terms like "self-rule" or "autonomy," which

can only apply to municipal services, are no better than a smoke-screen for perpetual Israeli rule over some two million Arabs who call themselves "Palestinians." They would have to reconcile themselves to the fact that they will never be free.

This is the true meaning of the "peace" that Likud leader Netanyahu promises to achieve.

MISHA LOUVISH  
Jerusalem.

### SICK

Sir, — I would like to register a protest against the bombings of civilians in Lebanon. I am generally a strong supporter of Israel, especially of the Rabin/Peres government. But the killing of scores of innocent civilians makes me sick.

JOEL MARCUS  
Glasgow, Scotland.

### BLASPHEMERS

Sir, — Over the past several years, I have become rather disturbed by the tendency of so many journalists to attribute terrorist acts to "Jewish extremists" or "Islamic fundamentalists."

The reason for my concern is that such references tend to defame Judaism, Islam and the God of Isaac and Ishmael. I have always viewed true fundamentalists as those who take heroic steps to reverence their relationship with God by growing in holiness and waging jihad against those demons within them that seek to undermine their commitment to be totally pure in their obedience to the God. Such people may seem to the secular world to be out of the mainstream, or even extreme, in their efforts to be totally obedient to our Merciful God. But such authentic fundamentalism is clearly evident to all as boldness, and not as a neurosis, psychosis or perversion.

Since the practice of killing innocent people is anything but pure and holy worship of God, those who engage in the perverted actions and rhetoric of terrorists should be called what they are — blasphemers. Even though the Post is a secular paper, it should not allow itself to become a collaborator with terrorists by dignifying their evil actions with religious phrases. Although terrorist acts are anything but good news, it would be such a relief to receive reports that present the facts without romanticizing the cause of terrorists.

As long as we allow (and, I dare say, even encourage) acts of terror to be attributed to God, rather than to Satan, there will be no chance of lasting peace being established in the Middle East.

(FR.) THOMAS R. COLLINS  
Norton, Virginia.

### SNEAKERS

Sir, — Hats off to Teddy Kolek for having the gumption to wear sneakers to an official dedication (Grapevine, April 26). As a fellow foot sufferer, I discovered it was better to bear the raised eyebrows than the discomfort of regular shoes.

At my annual independence Day party (same Grapevine), had my charming guest Ms. Cashman looked down past my "casual sartorial" garments, she would have noticed my sneakers as well.

SARA ROTH  
Jerusalem.



## Deception and the emperor

JONATHAN BLASS

In the story "The Emperor's New Clothes," the people are duped by the emperor's unscrupulous tailors who say that anyone failing to recognize the beauty of the emperor's wardrobe is unworthy of his position. It is a child, with no social standing to maintain, who points out that the emperor is wearing nothing at all.

Imagine, however, a slightly different version of the tale. The emperor and his tailors confess to the crowd, unofficially, that the new sovereign knows he will be appearing in the buff. Due to constraints or realpolitik, there is no alternative.

By making the public a party to the conspiracy of deception, by appealing to its worldliness and sophistication, would they succeed in silencing the child should he be impolitic enough to spoil the charade?

Shimon Peres and his colleagues have adopted precisely this tactic. They have involved the public in a collusion of pretense in order to stifle outrage at agreements that would have aroused a public furor had they been acknowledged by the government outright.

The most blatant example has been Peres's enthusiastic public defense of the understandings reached to conclude Operation Grapes of Wrath, while admitting off-camera to journalists that these arrangements will not even outlive the elections.

An identical ploy is being used regarding IDF withdrawal in Hebron. On the record, government spokesmen proclaim that no withdrawal is being contemplated, only a "redeployment" that may even enhance the security of the Jewish

community there. At the same time, unidentified official sources "confide" to the media that one benefit in delaying IDF withdrawal is to avoid the embarrassment of dealing, just before elections, with the dangerous security situation sure to result from an IDF pullout.

The public must act to revoke the cynicism over the government's failed peace plan

Imagine the public outcry that would have followed a televised statement by the prime minister that military activities against the Hizbullah were ceased in return for quiet until the elections. One can just as easily picture public reaction to a broadcasted admission by Peres that he was endangering hundreds of Jewish lives in Hebron in honor his commitments to the PLO. Such declarations would be greeted much like an announcement by the emperor of the fairy tale that he was planning to march stark, naked down Main Street. The government expects the public to accept the very same policies when it sends a double message, quietly letting people know it is aware things are much worse. Why should the emperor be less of a laughingstock if he winks knowingly when he lies about his "new clothes"?

The combination of candor and camouflage is designed to cultivate a bond of cynicism between a leadership that has already lost hope and a public it is prodding to abandon hope along with it. Cynicism is born at the death of a dream.

For ideologists on the Left, the Rabin-Arafat handshake on the White House lawn two and a half years ago was a decades-old dream come true. Peres promised that its realization would bring peace, widespread Israeli-Palestinian cooperation and an end to 100 years of terror. But since the signing of the Oslo accords, Palestinian Arab terror has only accelerated while Katyushas on Kiryat Shmona have shattered any surviving illusions about a "New Middle East."

The utopian vision has been replaced by cynicism. We are now told by the same people that terror will always be with us. Cynically, they have accepted "rules of the game" in the North that make our sons serving in Lebanon "legitimate" targets of Hizbullah terror.

The alternative to the cynicism that has been shortchanging us is hope, a belief in the possibility of changing reality for the better. We are entitled to demand a peace without terror, without a sacrifice of Zionist values like settlement and Jewish self-defense.

On May 29th, we have a chance to send the cynics home and hope again. We should use it.

The writer, the rabbi of Neveh Tzif in Samaria, heads Katzoa Yehuda, a rabbinical training program for graduates of Yeshivat Hesder.

## Who cares about Marge Schott?

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

"WE IN NO WAY concur with her interpretation of history," read the official statement recently issued by acting commissioner Bud Selig on behalf of Major League Baseball.

Her? Who? The late Barbara Tuchman on the origins of World War I? Doris Kearns Goodwin on Franklin and Eleanor? No. Marge Schott, closest historian and owner of the Cincinnati Reds, on Hitler. She averred the other day on ESPN that Hitler started out OK, but then "he just went too far."

Major League Baseball, "saddened and disappointed by the comments," does not concur. What a relief. A troubled nation was anxiously waiting to hear what Jerry Reinsdorf (Chicago White Sox), George Steinbrenner (New York Yankees), and Gene Autry (California Angels) think about the Third Reich.

I can see the next controversy coming. Selig: "Major League Baseball today totally disassociates itself from Mrs. Schott's assertion, made on the Shopping Channel, that Genghis Khan was misunderstood. We acknowledge that one great metropolitan newspaper did name him man of the millennium. But as owners of 27 teams all held in the public trust and as heirs to a vital tradition of tolerance and multi-culturalism — we note with pride our plethora of Hispanic shortstops — we wish to make clear, particularly with so many antitrust bills bouncing around the Senate, that we in no way concur."

But I digress. Selig noted, re Hitler, that Mrs. Schott had issued an apology earlier in the day. (Oh, to have witnessed the negotiations over that fantastic text.) But Rabbi Marvin Hier of the Simon Wiesenthal Center declared the apology insufficient.

Comic antisemitism arouses enormous indignation, while the real thing evokes general cowardice

which the first issue of John Kennedy Jr.'s magazine features Madonna on "If I Were President." In which Jessica Lange plays a farmer in a film and then testifies before a House committee on farm legislation — would care what these people think.

FRONT-PAGE headline in *The Washington Post* sports section: "Reds Schott Goes Unpunished." I understand the sentiment behind the headline, but so what. The paw marks of Schottzie 2, Schott's slobbering Saint Bernard, are more interesting. Punish? I would have punished her for having complained, after an umpire dropped dead on the Reds' field on opening day, causing the game to be canceled. "I feel cheated. This isn't supposed to happen to us."

Punish Schott on Hitler? The real scandal here is that what can only be called comic antisemitism arouses enormous indignation, while the real thing evokes general cowardice. There is a man abroad in the country who engages not in stupid, offhanded antisemitism, but in the serious, systematic kind — a deeply com-

## Campaign without poverty

DAN LEON

IF ONE of the parties contesting the present Knesset elections has a bumper sticker or a newspaper ad concerning social or economic issues, I must have overlooked it. The passport is security. You can be strong with Peres or secure with Bibi. Can one imagine a sticker saying "Peres for social equality" or "Bibi for privatization?"

This month saw the publication of two reports informing us that every third child in Jerusalem lives under the poverty line, and that 48 percent of workers don't earn the minimum monthly wage on which income tax is paid — NIS 1,950. The self-employed (who in general earn twice as much as salaried workers) in the top decile earn a massive NIS 108,650 a month, which is 23 times more than the average gross wage (NIS 4,696). (The reports are from the Jerusalem Statistical Abstract and the State Revenue Administration. The statistics are for the so-called united Jerusalem — in fact those living in the Arab sector are far worse off than those in the Jewish sector.)

The figures for Jerusalem (our second poorest city) and for the country as a whole (where men earn almost twice as much as women) should not come as a surprise. In 1994, about a fifth of all Israelis, and nearly a quarter of our children, lived under the poverty line.

If it is any consolation, when I was in California recently, I read in *The Los Angeles Times* that "an estimated two million children are hungry every day in California — nearly a quarter of the youngsters who live in one of the nation's richest states go to bed hungry most nights."

Though Israel was once known as an egalitarian country, the Americanization of our society now stands out. In our expanding economy, it is always reported that overall living standards are rising. But this is so only for part of the population. Israel has one of the widest gaps between rich and poor in the developed world.

No leading voices are thundering in support of a reallocation of resources to cut the rich-poor gap

Years ago, the nation was shocked when a girl in Beit She'an said on TV that she was hungry. Today, many of us are better off, but solidarity and concern for others aren't fashionable. It is now customary to appoint committees of enquiry to clarify every subject under the sun; but not the socio-economic gap. This is treated like the hamster — a regrettable but unavoidable natural phenomenon.

AGAINST growing social polarization under a government led by the "Labor movement," few effective voices of moral or political protest are raised. The rabbinate, for example, has other concerns. Party platforms have a section on socio-economic issues, but this is not where one finds the thrust of their campaigns. Some MKs in the outgoing Knesset have promoted social legislation, but there were no leading voices consistently thundering in support of a radical reallocation of our national resources to cut the rich-poor gap.

The finance minister seems interested in the size of the cake, rather than how to cut it. David Levy recently looked as if he might have developed a social critique on the Right, but not for long. And who remembers the days when Mapam's Yair Tzaban appeared on the Left as a militant spokesman for the workers?

Our society, where security affairs claim first priority, tends in practice to be self-centered and consumerist, with the poor and the underprivileged lacking both economic means and political clout.

The founders of Zionism of all schools of thought — in those days there were real differences between Left, Liberal, Right, and Religious — had their own visions of the lofty social ideals and mutual responsibility which would prevail in the state-to-be. What would they have thought of our apparent indifference to concepts of social justice?

We Israelis like looking back to the founding fathers and the brave pioneering days, but were we to take a frank look in the mirror at our present polarized society, it would reveal a tarnished image.

The author is the co-managing editor of the Palestine-Israeli Journal.

# Band does death-defying, follow-up act

IN TUNE  
DAVID BRINN

## THE CRANBERRIES To the Faithful Departed (Helicon)

NEVER has the subject of death sounded so lively. The Cranberries have challenged conventional wisdom and have followed up their smash commercial success *No Need to Argue* with the uncompromisingly uncommercial subject of death. And they pull it off very nicely.

The Cranberries' 1993 debut *Everybody Else is Doing It so Why Can't We?* sprung this unknown Irish band on an unsuspecting public, showcasing its secret weapon singer Dolores O'Riordan. Sweet, lilting melodies, O'Riordan's brogue warbling and yodeling vocals, and guitar sounds more atmospheric than U2 in its heyday all characterized the debut album.

The next year they joined the status of superstars with *No Need to Argue* and its monster hit "Zombie." For a few months it was played on local radio so often that it could almost have been mistaken for the country's national anthem.

To their credit, the band did not rest on its laurels, and *To the Faithful Departed* shows them stretching out with new styles and experimenting with different instrumentation.

Partial credit must go to producer Bruce Fairbairn, better known for his work with heavy-metal stalwarts AC/DC and Van Halen. Fairbairn's beefed up its sound somewhat, as heard on "Hollywood" and the first single, "Salvation," but he has also ironically allowed them to get softer too, like the orchestration on the ethereal "Intermission."

O'Riordan's lyrics deal with the dead and dying, be it John

Lennon, Kurt Cobain, her grandfather Joe or former producer Denny Cordell. Songs like "When You're Gone" with an almost 1950s girl-group doo-woop style, belies the somber words.

Overall, the material here is slightly weaker than on the previous two offerings. "Salvation" isn't nearly as catchy a single as either "Linger" from the debut, or "Zombie."

But I may still end up turning to this when I want to hear Cranberries music. It's inspiring to hear the band grapple with success, sometimes building from its trademark sound, sometimes distancing itself from it, but never standing still.

NOA  
Calling (NMC)

Arrangements take priority over songs on native daughter Ahinoam Nini's second release in English.

Frequently sounding like her self-confessed hero Joni Mitchell, *Calling* doesn't initially make much of an impact upon first listening, but instead slowly grows on you. No songs really stand out, and I defy anyone to hum a tune after listening to the record once.

But the reward comes with time and patience, something the average record buyer doesn't have a lot of. *What Calling* does have in depth, which becomes evident upon repeated listening.

Some tracks fall conceptually, like the attempt to merge her own style with the Ofra Haza Middle Eastern influence on "Manhattan-Tel Aviv," but on most tracks, Nini's charms and magical voice eventually shine through.

Stronger melodies would have been a welcome plus to the



The adventurous Cranberries most decidedly don't rest on their laurels in their second album.

sophisticated understated production and arrangements of longtime collaborator Gil Dor and British producer Rupert Hine.

BUTTHOLE SURFERS  
Electricallyland (NMC)

This must be rock's longest-running bad joke. A semi-talented

hard-core band from the '80s still spewing out material 10 years later. Just take a look at some of the song titles - "Cough Syrup," "Ulcer Breakout" and "The Lord is a Monkey."

Given to The Ramones or The Replacements, such titles may have produced funny, self-deprecating bummable classics. The

Butthole Surfers, however, pound them unhumorously into the ground.

Pedestrian heavy metal-cum-punk accompaniment provides no respite from the torrential monotone lyrical output.

Call it obnoxious, call it dumb. Or (in reference to the Surfers) just call it a day.

# Harpsichordist finds diversity in polyphony

FIVE works of one and the same genre, *Toccatas*, by only one composer, Bach, performed in one program by one harpsichordist may arouse premonitions of monotony, at least when seen on paper.

In fact, the opposite turned out to be true, in the Youth at the Center series' recital by Shalev Ad-El. What Ad-El achieved was to highlight the enormous differences in character, mood and structure - despite their similarity of form.

There is something very fresh and dashing about Ad-El's approach, though not overdone, and securely within the confines of faithfulness to style. Above all, the 10 years' time lapse between *Toccatas* No. 911 and the earlier Nos. 912, 913, 914 and 916 was made unmistakably clear in his rendition, focusing on the later works more clearly delineated melodic profile, florid contrapuntal treatment of a fugue theme, and a more maturely developed emotional impressiveness.

Mercifully avoiding the pitfalls of mechanical rigidity, Ad-El adopted flexible tempi, conveying - in the slow sections of Nos. 912, 914 and 916 - an improvisation-like meditativeness, as if extemporizing on the spur of the moment. This, of course, could not be the case in such highly

structured works.

Ad-El's polished technique and transparency of intricate textures sounded as if taken for granted, adding a significant contribution to his artistic endeavor.

Jerusalem Music Center, *Mishkenot Sha'ananim*, May 10. Ury Eppstein

IN a world populated with gods, muses and monsters - as is the Baroque of England, France and Germany - it made sense to devote a whole program of the Jerusalem Consort to these partly divine, partly infernal creatures.

The consort (Miriam Meltzer, soprano; Idit Shemer, Baroque transverse flute; Myra Herzog, viola da gamba; David Shemer, harpsichord) presented a well-consolidated, professionally reliable performance of the Baroque style's niceties and peculiarities, particularly in Rameau's *Orpheus*, where all the members joined forces in an impressive display of *esprit de corps*.

The instrumental combinations were delightfully highlighted in Couperin's playful suite *Les Petits Anges*.

The Baroque's penchant for unabashed virtuosity was demonstrated brilliantly by Herzog's gamba in Forqueray's extremely demanding *Jupiter*. Rameau's *Cyclope* provided Shemer with an

## CONCERT ROUNDUP

opportunity for remarkable technical skill.

Meltzer's soprano made mostly accurate, but sometimes rough landing, on the higher notes in Blow's *Sappho to the Goddess of Love* and arias from Bach cantatas.

Benny Hendel contributed a relaxed atmosphere with his informal yet informative narration.

St. Andrew's Scottish Church, May 11. Ury Eppstein

THE Roman Amphitheater in Beit She'an is a magical setting for opera. It is not as huge as the one in Caesarea and it does not face the sea breezes that can create havoc with the singers' voices. In fact, Beit She'an should become a national site for special opera productions, as it has all the ingredients for which such events call.

Unfortunately, only several hundred people attended the performance of *Eugene Onegin*, performed by the visiting opera house from Minsk, Belarus. This was a very traditional production, as one could expect, with minimal sets and even further minimal staging and movement on stage.

But that never interfered with our overall enjoyment. Under the dynamic baton of Alexander

Anisimov, the orchestra played very well, and the chorus sang quite exceptionally. It is not often that we hear such fresh and accurate choral singing here in Israel.

Not all the soloists were first class, far from it. But Natalia Kostenko was a captivating Tatyana. Her soprano was warm and tender, and her singing of the famous lengthy and most demanding letter scene quite marvelous. Vladimir Petrov as Onegin had some fine moments, and accolades also go to all the other female singers in the cast.

The male voices were somewhat weaker. But this was above all Anisimov's evening. The way he blended orchestra and stage, the way he accompanied the singers, and the way he wielded the intricate and masterly Tchaikovsky ensemble numbers was extraordinary.

Beit She'an Roman Amphitheater, May 9. Michael Aizenstadt

THERE are many ways to play the Dvorak cello concerto but, on the whole, the tendency is toward a grand, almost bombastic explosion of sound. Robert Cohen, on the other hand, treats it as chamber music. He plays softly, tenderly and in a very personal way.

His second movement is poetic and lyric in a very encompassing and rich manner. It's convincing enough to make one forget any other approach.

Haifa Symphony Orchestra flutist Marcello Ehrlich captured the essence of Cohen's interpretation and played magically with him, but conductor Giora Bernstein seemed to have completely missed the point. He seemed to be interested more in a tug of war than in real music making.

Haifa Auditorium, May 6. Michael Aizenstadt

ISRAELI pianist Daniel Gortler revealed depth, fluency and grace in his performance of Mozart's majestic piano concerto No. 25 in C major, K.503 as featured soloist in the Beersheba Sinfonietta All-Mozart Classical No. 6 series.

Gortler wrote his own cadenza as well, and added an original humorous touch of the Marseillaise to the usual modulations and pyrotechnics.

An intense inwardness of focus was projected by conductor Aharon Harlap, who led the Sinfonietta in sonorous and stylistically faithful renditions of the *Don Giovanni* overture and the "Prague" Symphony, K.504. Beersheba Conservatory, May 11. Max Stern

# Partisan study of ethnic resentments is overly simplistic

## MIDNIGHT PRAYER

By Amnon Levy and Rami Dahan. Direction, Karmi Dahan. Set, Dor Hershenson. Costumes, Michael Lutz. Music, Ofri Vaidman. Hebrew title, *Tilan Herzog*. At the Cameri Theater, Tel Aviv.

Rabbi Shitrit \_\_\_\_\_ Yossi Graber  
Eliachan Adiya \_\_\_\_\_ Arieh Elias  
Pinhas \_\_\_\_\_ Avraham Selektor  
Berke \_\_\_\_\_ Yoram Hatav

WITH the advent of a drama like *Midnight Prayer*, audiences in this country are at long last being

exposed to a convulsive frontal explosion of Sephardi resentment against Ashkenazi attitudes.

The staging of this play marks a rare and rancorous release of what hitherto has been an overtly suppressed though long built-up hostility nursed by citizens of oriental origin against the patronizing-cum-contemptuous view in which they are held by many of their European counterparts. As an outspoken, embittered outcry as well as a significant socio-political manifesto, it should have a powerful impact.

## THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DODDAI

Yossi Graber and Arieh Elias give masterly studies symbolizing the Ashkenazi and the Sephardi religious establishment respectively.

Yoram Hatav depicts a Deri-prototype emotionally and slavishly trapped in the former, while Avraham Selektor, in the most

genuinely moving role of the evening, plays his simple Sephardi father.

Characterizations apart, the text is however by no means on a par with the performances or the thematic projection. First, the religious juxtaposition of sacred and profane is, to put it mildly, out of balance.

There is, too, something of cheap sentimentalization as well as a sense of forced sanctity in

episodes like the ecstatic Ashkenazi ritual dance and the Sephardi religious liturgy.

Then there is the psychological aspect. While the agonized frustration of conflicting ethnic identity and its consequent sense of inferiority are graphically documented, they are not realized artistically.

The victor-victim confrontation pictured here is a one-sided, partisan structure of half truths.

# Concert is her ticket home

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

SHOULD I stay or should I go? That is the question that most high-level classical musicians here face at some point in their careers. It's a question that has even split families.

In the strongly Zionist Zori family, for example, four children showed an above-average talent. Today, three of them - Nital (violin), Hillel (cello) and Ruti (piano) - still make their homes and musical careers here.

Violinist Carmit, who left Israel at 15 to study in the US, is now returning for the first time in a professional capacity. It's a moment she wishes had come earlier, but no invitation had been forthcoming before.

Two weeks from now she will play in the opening musical event of the Israel Festival, accompanied by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

"One day I got a phone call and was asked if I would join the group to play in Israel. I was thrilled because I've come back to Israel many times and played privately, but this is a wonderful opportunity. It's a first and it's really exciting," said Zori in a phone interview from her New York home.

The ensemble is a unique one, she explains. "The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center is a chamber-music group based in New York City, in Alice Tully Hall. They have regular members but it's a flexible situation and the members do other things and have solo careers and live all over the world. Then at times they have some guests so they get a variety. I have been a guest for the past three directors.

"It's not an ensemble per se. That's why they are called a society. Nevertheless there is some kind of an ambience since play a lot together and I was lucky to do some recordings with them."

Zori is first and foremost a chamber musician, and has no regrets at passing up a solo career. "The more I play, the more I find that my greater love is chamber music. My repertoire is so big and so enriching so there is never a dull moment."

"I have performed all the major violin concerti and they are wonderful. But performing concerti you have to come to terms with how good the orchestra is, and still the conductor has to have his say, which is not always necessarily what you have in mind."

"In chamber music you have much more control; the percentage of the performances turning out the way you want to make them to is higher."

Zori admits that living and raising two young children (aged three and one) in the US is not easy for her. "The house I grew up in in Israel was a very patriotic home.

We grew up on the idea of loving our country and really I love everything about my country and being Jewish.

"There is a real lack in terms of the community here [in the US], especially during the holidays. Being away from my immediate family makes me heartbroken. Don't get me wrong. I do have a wonderful life here and there are many opportunities. I wouldn't have had the same life in Israel, so you pay the price and the price is high for living in New York."

Zori adds that there were "so many facets as to why I stayed abroad. You sort of go with the flow and since I'm not an unhappy person I accept it. I left Israel at 15 and never really returned. I got used to American society and people, and I created a Jewish home for myself. But there's nothing like Israel for an Israeli."

As with many professional women, one of the keys to her success is good child care. "I have an incredible baby sitter who is mine and mine alone. Of course a big chunk of my salary goes to her but it's worth it because I have satisfaction in music and with the kids and so you juggle both. It's stressful but it's worth it."

Zori speaks Hebrew with her children at home while her husband, Robert, speaks English with the kids who manage to know when to speak which language.

Zori commends her siblings for staying in Israel, although she admits that maybe she is somewhat to blame for that. "My brothers made the conscious decision not to have roots in the US, maybe because of me."

"I feel good for them, they are happy people, happy musically too. They found their way in Israel. I have a lot of respect for them because they had a personal belief of living in the country and making something there."

Nital Zori, concertmaster of the Ra'anana Symphonette, adds that "the decision to stay here was not only musical but of course it had to do with Carmit although it's not the same. And there is no way I could have had a career abroad and go to the army here. I'm very happy and I do not miss not having an international career."

Speaking about Carmit, he adds that she is a great violinist, an amazing one. She's got everything it calls for. Come to the concerts, believe me, you will not regret it."

And he maintains somewhat bitterly that "it is great that Carmit is at long last playing here professionally, but it should have happened long ago." She will perform in two concerts with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center at the Israel Festival on May 25 and 26.

# A few Baroque cowboys from George Balanchine

DANCE REVIEW  
DORA SOWDEN

THE performance of a Balanchine ballet is always an event, and the premier by the Israeli Ballet of his *Square Dance* at the Tel Aviv Center for the Performing Arts Opera House (May 6) lived up to all expectations.

The great choreographer had chosen music from the baroque composers and made them a compatible blend with the American folksiness. The dancing combined super balletic technique with squares and circles that kept the country western in mind.

This was Balanchine at his most subtle, seeming most relaxed when he was most intricate.

Not that the dancers were always perfect in this marvelous creation. Their performance was balletically correct but often looked heavier than the crafty devices demanded, even where spirit was free.

It is notable that Berta Yampolsky's two works on the program did not suffer from comparisons but stood their own ground. The John Adams mysterious music seemed more hallucinatory than ever and the otherworldliness of the dance forms was beautifully main-

tained on and off the flight of stairs which enhanced the scene in *Harmonium*.

The four excerpts from Yampolsky's *Dancin'* were also a welcome revival. The last one, "Take This Waltz" (music: Leonard Cohen), did bring back memories of Wendy Lucking's style but were all together a suitable ending to a brilliant evening.

TO honor the memory of the late Dr. Martha Hill, founder and director of the Juilliard School Dance Department in New York and a frequent visitor to Israel, Hassia Levy-Agron, head of the Rubin Academy Dance Department, arranged an evening (May 5) at the Hebrew University Givat Ram campus.

Dances by two of Dr. Hill's colleagues, Anna Sokolow and Jane Dudley, both whom have been at various times teaching in Jerusalem, were performed by Springboard, the dance group of the Rubin Academy.

Also on the program was a chirpy-cum-jazzy dance by young students, choreographed by Barak Marshall.

### TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	2	RITA	COMPILATION
#2	3	SHLOMO ARTZI	TWO
#3	4	VARIOUS ARTISTS	DREAMLAND
#4	1	THE CRANBERRIES	TO THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED
#5	5	ROCKFOUR	BACK TO THE SHELL
#6	15	ALANIS MORISSETTE	JAGGED LITTLE PILL
#7	NEW	GEORGE MICHAEL	OLDER
#8	7	OASIS	MORNING GLORY
#9	NEW	NOA	CALLING
#10	NEW	VARIOUS ARTISTS	HIT BOX 11
#11	14	YEHUDA POLIKER	THE CHILD IN YOU
#12	11	VANGELIS	PORTRAITS
#13	RE	MJIT GILRON	THAT PLACE
#14	6	VARIOUS ARTISTS	SHINE ON, VOL. 2
#15	13	TAKE THAT	GREATEST HITS

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

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### TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

INAUGURATION OF THE AUSTRIA CHAIR IN ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE LAND OF ISRAEL IN THE BIBLICAL PERIOD

Lecture:  
Professor David Ussishkin  
Incumbent of the Chair

The Role of Archaeology in Clarifying the History of the Land of Israel during the Biblical Period

on Wednesday, 15 May 1996 at 4:15 p.m. at the Marcelle Gordon University Club, Tel Aviv University, Ramat Aviv

The public is invited

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, May 14, 1996

## Rishon-Tel Aviv train approved

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE steering committee of the Ports and Railways Authority yesterday approved plans for a suburban railway from Tel Aviv to Rishon LeZion.

The new line will at first go from the railway station in south Tel Aviv to the new Rishon LeZion Egged station west of the town. Later, the railway is scheduled to continue to southern Rishon LeZion and eventually be part of a Tel Aviv-Ashdod and Tel Aviv-Modi'in line.

According to the authority, the ride from Rishon LeZion to Tel Aviv will take 13 minutes. During

rush hour, it is scheduled to handle more than 2,000 passengers.

There is currently a suburban line between Tel Aviv and Netanya, with 60 trains a day, and a Tel Aviv-Rehovot line with 17 trains a day.

Another line planned for the greater Tel Aviv mass transit system - which will run from Tel Aviv to Petah Tikva, Kfar Sava, Ben-Gurion Airport and Modi'in - got a boost last week when the Transport and Finance ministries approved plans and allocated funds for the construction of the Tel Aviv to Kfar Sava segment.

## Elbit's MiG-21 has inaugural flight

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE inaugural flight of the Elbit MiG-21 two-seater took place successfully over the weekend, the firm announced yesterday.

The plane is, in fact, a Mig-21 Lancer which Elbit is upgrading in Romania for the Romanian Air Force.

The flight lasted about half an hour at the factory in Bacau of Aerostar SA, the Romanian aircraft industry. A joint flight crew from the two companies carried out the flight.

According to Elbit, the flight took place on time and the entire upgrading program is continuing according to schedule. In August 1995, it said, the inaugural flight of the first prototype MiG-21 single seater took place two months ahead of the planned date.

Both planes fulfilled the tactical, technical, and safety requirements of the Romanian Air Force, which has approved the gradual upgrading of all the MiG-21s in its possession, the company said.

## Teva quarterly profits rise 18% to \$22.3m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TEVA Pharmaceutical Industries posted quarterly net profits of \$22.3 million, a historic first-quarter high and a 18% increase from \$18.9m. in the same period last year, the company announced yesterday.

Total first quarter sales for the company, which leads the local drug industry, rose 24% to \$189.3m. from \$152.7m.

The company's first quarter results include sales generated by Biogal Pharmaceutical Works, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in Hungary, and ICI, an Italian bulk pharmaceutical manufacturer, both of which were acquired during the 1995 fourth quarter.

Speaking at a press conference to announce the results, Teva President and CEO Eli Hurvitz said the first quarter was highlighted by the absorption of Biogal into the group and reorganization procedures involving cutbacks in staff.

The company was also involved in reaching an agreement to acquire US-based Biocryst Laboratories. Hurvitz said he expects the transaction, which involves an exchange of shares, to be completed by the end of the month.

"The merger is expected to substantially broaden our product offerings and market presence in the US market for generic drugs," Hurvitz said.



Eli Hurvitz: First quarter was highlighted by absorption of Biogal into the group and reorganization procedures involving cutbacks in staff.

(Andre Brumman)

Local market sales increased 11% to \$70.8m., including pharmaceutical sales of \$49.85m. Sales outside of Israel increased 33% to \$118.5m., including pharmaceutical sales of \$85.13m. North American sales increased 9% to \$71m.

Management said increased sales volume compensated for price competition in both finished dosage forms and bulk pharmaceutical chemicals.

Teva's sales in central and eastern Europe increased from \$2.9m.

to \$22.4m., reflecting the inclusion of Biogal for the full quarter. In western-Europe sales rose 9.1% to \$17.27m.

Commenting on the company's plans to increase its dominance in Europe, Hurvitz said, "We are currently looking into the possibility of either continuing our strategy of purchasing additional small companies in Europe which are leaders in their field or merging with a large international firm which is situated across Europe."

Financial expenses increased 55.3% to \$3.72m. from \$2.4m. Management said the increase is due mainly to the rise in the borrowing base, the increase in interest rates and the devaluation of the shekel to the US dollar during the quarter.

Gross research and development expenses increased 20% to \$17.6m. Hurvitz said the company expects to receive FDA approval to market Copaxone, a drug designed to fight multiple sclerosis, in the US by the end of the second quarter.

In the first quarter, Teva received payments of \$18.7m. from Israel's General Health Fund, most of which constitutes pre-payments of sums due during 1996 in accordance with the terms of a settlement agreement reached between the fund, the government and the GHF's creditor.

Teva announced a regular first-quarter cash dividend for 1996 of 20 cents per ADR (American Depository Receipt).

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

United Mizrahi Bank branches in the North will remain closed today for the second consecutive day as part of the workers sanctions. The workers have engaged in sanctions for the past two weeks to protest against management's decision to fire more than 200 Mizrahi workers as part of the bank's reorganization plan.  
Galit Lipkis Beck

The Renaissance-Arisson group and MI Holdings have agreed on the main details, not including price, of a contract for the sale of 20 percent of the shares of Bank Hapoalim. Sources close to the negotiations expect the final summation of the contract will be reached within the next few days, while the price will be negotiated over the coming weeks.  
Galit Lipkis Beck

## WORLD BRIEFS

EU to start formal probe into French textiles aid: The European Commission is expected to start a formal investigation tomorrow into France's plan to reduce payroll charges paid by its textile industry to help it fight international competition. European Union sources said the commission needed more information on which companies would benefit from the plan expected to cost FR 2.1 billion. If they were small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) there should be no problem, but money paid to large companies was likely to be considered illegal, they said.

The French government promised in March to help its troubled textile industry by reducing salary-linked contributions paid by employers in clothing, shoe and other companies in the sector. This was to compensate, in particular, for what Paris sees as unfair competition by European Union countries that have devalued their currencies.  
Reuters

Greek prosecutor seeks felony charges in PTT deal: A Greek state prosecutor yesterday recommended felony charges be laid against those responsible for alleged wrongdoing in a \$200 million deal to supply the state telephone monopoly with digital switches in 1994. The Greek Telecommunications Organization (OTE) awarded the contracts for some one million digital switches to Greece's Intracom and Siemens Hellas, a subsidiary of Germany's Siemens. Court officials said prosecutor Lampros Karanbelas sent his proposal to the Athens appeals court tribunal, which will decide within two weeks whether to press charges and name a special prosecutor. Karanbelas called for three felony and three misdemeanor counts, ranging from bribery and fraud to falsifying documents.  
Reuters

## Airport workers call off sanctions today

HAIM SHAPIRO

THE Airports Authority works committee decided last night not to interrupt flights at Ben-Gurion Airport today after the authority threatened to seek a restraining order from the Labor Court.

The workers have been holding a series of meetings of the entire airport staff to protest a government committee's recommendations to change the pension plan for authority workers.

These meetings have been stopping all takeoffs, landings and other activities.

The authority stressed that the dispute is not between itself and the workers.

## Sebeg ends strike after Peres promises to seek more compensation for Nahariya

JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

NAHARIYA Mayor Jackie Sebeg called for the end of the two-day municipal strike following a decision by Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat to ask the cabinet to put the city's compensation package on par with that of other towns in the confrontation area. The Finance Ministry said yesterday.

Following the government's approval of the Finance

Ministry's NIS 900 million compensation plan two days ago, Sebeg called for a strike to protest the smaller package Nahariya was awarded compared to the other towns in the North.

In comparison to the 15-percent reduction in income tax, the towns within the confrontation area received, Nahariya residents were granted a 12% reduction. And

Nahariya was the only area not to receive a promise of government assistance for people looking to buy homes there.

The Finance Ministry said it will suggest that Nahariya residents be awarded the 15% income tax reduction and the NIS 20,000 in governmental assistance for homebuyers - NIS 10,000 of which will be given as a grant - that was offered to towns within the confrontation area.

## Kardan in advanced talks with int'l firms

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

KARDAN Agricultural Appliances, a subsidiary of Kardan Investments, is in advanced negotiations with international companies to market research and development programs valued at about \$4 million.

The company is in talks to market six research and technological development programs, which were researched at the Volcanic Institute of Agricultural Research.

The Agriculture Ministry recently awarded Kardan a contract to market technological

research projects conducted at the Volcanic Institute.

The contract was awarded in an attempt to expand the institute's research and development activities by creating strategic partnerships and attracting investors.

Kardan general manager Moshe Shapira said the company has a detailed work plan to find potential scientific projects that can attract overseas financing. He said the leading fields in agricul-

ture research include computerization of the agriculture sector, pesticides and genetic engineering.

Shapira said there is very large marketing potential for the research projects conducted at the institute, estimated at between \$15 million and \$20m. in the first year of marketing.

Kardan Agricultural is currently demonstrating its products for the first time at the Agritech exhibition at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds.

## French cabinet approves reduced defense budget

PARIS (Reuters) - The French cabinet, moving to set up an all-professional army, approved a drastically reduced defense budget bill yesterday but said there was no crisis with Germany over cuts in joint defense industry programs.

The bill, to be presented to parliament next month, pegged defense spending for the six-year period 1997-2002 at an annual FR 185 billion, some FR 20b. less than the level set by the government in 1994.

"This will make France's defense less expensive and more efficient," Defense Minister Charles Millon told reporters.

"It will anchor our defense in the process of European unification." Details were to be announced later in the day with attention focused on the future of joint combat helicopter programs with Germany and other allies.

President Jacques Chirac reassured Chancellor Helmut Kohl in

private talks last Friday that Paris would respect all its Franco-German commitments, despite the economy measures.

Government spokesman Alain Lamassoure quoted the president as telling yesterday's cabinet meeting that there was "no misunderstanding" between the two countries.

German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe has expressed concern that France would sacrifice joint military programs to reduce its budget deficit and qualify for another Franco-German priority, a single European currency in 1999.

Defense sources said the bill would be deliberately vague about orders for Tiger attack helicopters developed with Germany, and NH90 transport and anti-submarine helicopters developed with Germany, Italy and the Netherlands.

The sources said France's target was for 120 Tigers in the year 2015 compared with 210 initially planned, with the first deliveries delayed until 2003, and for 80 to 90 NH90s, less than half the number initially sought, with first deliveries in 2004.

## Industrial growth slowed last month

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

INDUSTRIAL growth has stabilized at a relatively low level since the start of the year, reflected in a slowdown in export deliveries and a standstill in local market sales, according to a Manufacturers Association survey.

Association general manager Yoram Belizovsky said the survey was conducted on about 190 companies in the second half of March and April.

In the second quarter, 40% of the manufacturers forecast a 21% drop in local market sales. In the export field, 51% of the manufacturers expect export shipments to grow, compared with 17% that anticipate a drop.

The manufacturers forecast a small growth in investments in fixed assets in the second quarter. A drop in investments is expected in the food and textiles fields, compared with a rise in metals and electronics field.

Belizovsky said 34% of those surveyed reported a growth in local market sales in the first three months of the year, compared with 41% in a similar survey conducted in January and 53% in an October 1995 survey.

However, 35% reported a drop

in sales, compared with 29% in the previous survey and 16% in the October survey.

Belizovsky said there was a slowdown in the export field. The number of manufacturers to report a rise in export shipments fell to 35% from 43% in the January survey.

Twenty-five percent of the exporters reported a drop in export deliveries, compared with 22% in the previous survey.

The survey shows that manufacturers' profits from exports continued to erode, even though export prices overseas did not "drop," said Belizovsky, explaining this is associated with the rise in operating costs and slow devaluation of the shekel against the basket of currencies.

According to the survey, 45% of the exporters reported an erosion in profits, compared with 38% in the previous month.

In the reported period, the rate of industrial productivity growth remained small.

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Source: Telephone quotes, May 1994

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In a Resolution of The Board of Directors of the above Company on April 30, 1996, it was decided to demand payment for 25 per cent of the value of all shares issued to you and for which payment has not yet been made. You are hereby ordered to execute payment for said shares by no later than May 30, 1996.

Steven Lieboon  
Chairman of the Board

**ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS**

Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (5.5.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.825	4.780	4.500
Swiss franc (CHF 200,000)	4.125	4.250	4.300
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.250	1.700	2.100
Swiss franc (CHF 200,000)	0.500	0.300	0.750

Yen (10 million yen)

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

**Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (13.5.96)**

Currency basket	CHEQUES AND TRANSFERS	CASH	SAVING NOTES	TRIP
U.S. dollar	3.6746	3.5222	3.14	3.50
German mark	2.2882	2.1225	2.05	2.1048
French franc	4.8261	4.5225	4.77	5.01
Japanese yen (100)	0.6777	0.6277	0.60	0.62
Dutch guilder	2.3042	2.0223	2.08	2.14
Swiss franc	1.8901	1.7888	1.83	1.88
Belgian franc (10)	2.3289	2.0711	2.51	2.54
Spanish peseta	0.4707	0.4783	0.45	0.48
Norwegian krona	0.4899	0.4845	0.47	0.51
Denish krona	0.5411	0.5485	0.58	0.58
Finland mark	0.6781	0.6840	0.68	0.70
Canadian dollar	2.3301	2.3577	2.23	2.41
Australian dollar	2.2583	2.2586	2.21	2.24
S. African rand	0.7022	0.7420	0.78	0.78
Belgian franc (10)	1.8192	1.8226	0.55	0.55
Austrian schilling (10)	2.9667	3.0175	2.91	3.05
Italian lire (1000)	0.0075	0.0084	0.01	0.01
Jordanian dinar	0.0012	0.0012	0.01	0.01
Egyptian pound	0.0012	0.0012	0.01	0.01
EU	1.9290	1.9814	1.95	1.95
High price	0.0072	0.0082	0.01	0.01
Spanish peseta (100)	2.0086	2.0474	2.48	2.55

\*These rates vary according to bank. Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI



Key Representative Rates
US dollar NIS 3.2288 -0.19%
Sterling NIS 4.8648 -0.79%
Mark NIS 2.1049 -1.06%

NEW YORK MARKET
New York market indexes
DJ Industrial 10,244.45 +0.42
DJ Composite 10,244.45 +0.42

Other stock market indexes
FTSE 100 3,798.2 -1.32
Nikkei 22,311.5 -0.43

Israeli stocks in NY
NYSE/AMEX
Tel Aviv 100 1,215.00 +0.12
Bank Leumi 100 1,215.00 +0.12

Trade & Services
Bank Leumi 100 1,215.00 +0.12
Bank Hapoalim 100 1,215.00 +0.12

Libor rates
3 months 5.50 +0.01
6 months 5.50 +0.01

Foreign financial data courtesy of
CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

US commodities
Cotton (L) 1.42 +0.01
Cocoa (L) 1,200.00 +0.00

London commodities
Cocoa (L) 1,200.00 +0.00
Cotton (L) 1.42 +0.01

Spot market metals (US)
Gold 391.45 +0.11
Silver 5.29 +0.02

New York metal futures
Gold (Apr) 391.45 +0.11
Silver (Apr) 5.29 +0.02

London metal fixes
Gold (Apr) 391.45 +0.11
Silver (Apr) 5.29 +0.02

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Name Price Change Volume Price Change Volume

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Shares mark time with eye on CPI report, elections

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ
199.19 -0.32%
210.36 -0.12%

STOCKS were little changed, awaiting tomorrow's consumer price index report and the upcoming elections.
Shares in Teva closed down 0.25 percent after the company said first-quarter net profits rose 18%, less than expected, to \$22.3 million, or 14 cents a share.

German stocks soar, others slide

WORLD-MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuter) - German stocks surged more than one percent yesterday but the other main European bourses ended down, with London ruled by a harsh regulatory review of its gas industry and diminishing prospects for interest rate cuts.
The dollar climbed back over 1.53 marks in Europe, its best level in 11 days, still buoyed by last week's US economic data showing inflation risks receding.

Blue-chip stocks soar

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuter) - Wall Street investors shook off inflation jitters and went on a buying binge yesterday, sending the Nasdaq composite index to another new high while the blue-chip market scrambled to keep up.
Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average jumped 64.46 points or 1.17 percent to end at 5,582.60.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES
MARK STERLING YEN SFR FFf
MARK 1.4569/15 0.6284/93 - 1.1891/12 4.9391/57

# Christie: Atlanta will be sprinters' games

NUREMBERG (Reuters) — Olympic 100 meters champion Linford Christie said yesterday that this year's Atlanta Olympics would be a "sprinters' games" but still kept his rivals guessing on whether he would defend his title.

Christie told a news conference that Atlanta's heat and humidity would provide perfect conditions for sprinters and said he was even fitter than last year despite his 36 years.

Although his clothing and shoe sponsors, who organized the conference, released a statement clearly indicating that Christie would be running at the Games, the man himself played his cards close to his chest.

"If I'm there, you will see me. If not, you won't," he said. "For people like me the heat and humidity are great. It's going to be a sprinters' games. I'm a lot stronger now. As time goes on, I get better."

Journalists reading a sponsors' statement before the conference were left in no doubt about Christie's Olympic plans.

German company Puma organized the event to publicize what it called its "World Team" — lead-

ing athletes who are competing in Atlanta and are under contract to wear the company's kit.

"In Atlanta 10,768 athletes will compete," the statement said. "Four of them have special ambitions — (Jamaican sprinter) Merlene Ottey, (German long jumper) Heike Drechsler, Linford Christie and (British high hurdler) Colin Jackson."

Christie has said that 1996 will be his last season and he is running just for fun. But the Briton, whose indoor campaign was cut short by a groin injury, has prepared hard.

Looking powerful and fit after training in Australia and Florida, he opened his outdoor season with a victory in an impressive 10.20 seconds despite cold and wet conditions at a small meeting in the German town of Arnsberg on Sunday.

The mark compared favorably with the hand-timed 10.3 seconds Christie clocked at the start of 1992 season when he went on to win the Olympic title in Barcelona and the 10.26 in his first race in 1993, the season he won the world title in Stuttgart.

# Detroit at oblivion's edge

DETROIT (AP) — Jon Casey made 37 saves and Yuri Khmylev had a goal and an assist as the St. Louis Blues pushed the Stanley Cup favorite Detroit Red Wings to the brink of elimination with a 3-2 victory in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinal.

To advance to the conference finals, the Blues need to win today at home, where they are 5-0 this season in the playoffs. If necessary, Game 7 would be played at Detroit on Thursday.

Wayne Gretzky and Brett Hull also scored for the Blues in Sunday's game. Kris Draper and Vyacheslav Kozlov scored for Detroit.

While the Red Wings flooded Casey with shots from every conceivable spot and angle — although most were from outside and poor angles — St. Louis made good use of its 21 shots by taking many of them from in front, many of them in close.

And while Casey was steady in net, Detroit goalie Chris Osgood made the more spectacular saves. But Casey made a key glove save on Steve Yzerman from the right circle with 12 seconds left and Darren McCarty's shot on the rebound was just wide left.



NET GAINS — St. Louis Blues Wayne Gretzky follows his shot to the net against Red Wings goalie Chris Osgood.

Desjardins failed to keep a bouncing puck in the Panthers' zone, and Florida successfully broke out on a 3-on-2.

Just over the blue line, Dave Lowry dropped a pass to Stu Barnes, whose 35-foot shot banked off Philadelphia's Dale Hawerchuk and between Hextall's legs.

The Flyers' Eric Lindros scored the game's first goal on a power play at 7:02 of the middle period, one second after the Panthers got one player back from a 5-on-3 shorthanded situation.

St. Louis leads series 3-2. Florida 2, Philadelphia 1 (2OT). Florida leads series 3-2. LAST NIGHT: Colorado at Chicago TONIGHT: Philadelphia at Florida DETROIT at St. Louis TOMORROW: Chicago at Colorado — (if necessary)

# Crushing victories for Warwicks, Middlesex

LONDON (AP) — Champion for the last two years, Warwickshire began the defense of its English county championship cricket title with an overwhelming innings and 139-run victory over Sussex yesterday.

After piling up 645 for seven in its innings with centuries for Dermot Reeve (160 not out), Trevor Penney (134) and Nick Knight (132) and 90 from Dominic Ooster, the Bears dismissed Sussex for 222 and 284 to collect a maximum 24 points.

The Sussex players are coached by former West Indies batsman Desmond Haynes who kept them in the locker room after the four-day game for a post-match inquest on the loss.

At Lords, Middlesex bowled out Durham for 67 with paceman David Ffollett taking eight for 22 to also win by a huge margin, 306 runs, despite trailing on first innings.

Middlesex managed only 191 on first innings, 18 fewer than the visitors, but hit back with 391 in the second, with 171 from former England captain Mike Gatting.

Despite 23 from Durham's West Indian opener Sherwin Campbell, the visitors crumbled and Ffollett, in only his third championship match, captured his wickets in a 12.2 over spell. In other news, Gloucestershire batsman Andrews Symonds, English born, but Australian raised, is ready to play for England after all if selected.

Last year, Symonds refused a place on the England A squad to tour Pakistan and pursue his ambition to play for Australia.

# National high jump mark broken

HEATHER CHAIT

HIGH jumper Constantin Matusевич added a centimeter to his own national record at the ASA Championships held at Hadar Yosef stadium on Monday.

Twenty-five year old Matusевич, who immigrated one year ago from Ukraine, jumped 2.29 meters, way beyond the 2.25m he needed to clear for the Olympic criterion. He managed all his jumps at the first attempt, beginning with 2.25m and including the record after which he decided to quit.

Pole vaulter Constantin Simyonev also confirmed his place on the Olympic team at the same meet when he cleared the bar at 5.65m. Danny Krasnov, who holds the national pole vault record, jumped 5.60m and ended second behind Simyonev.

Krasnov and Simyonev will both compete in Atlanta, the first time that two Israeli athletes are registered for the same event. Triple jumper Rogel Nahum has also confirmed his spot on the track-and-field squad.

Panthers 2, Flyers 1 (2OT) Mike Hough's goal in the second overtime gave the Florida Panthers a 2-1 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers and a 3-2 lead in their best-of-7 playoff series.

The victory was Florida's second straight overtime victory and the fourth overtime loss in the playoffs for the Flyers, who must win Game 6 in Florida today to keep their Stanley Cup hopes alive.

Hough scored at 8:05 of the second overtime, wheeling around in the faceoff circle to corral a rebound, then firing a slap shot over fallen Flyers goalie Ron Hextall.

Trailing 1-0, Florida tied it 2:39 into the third period when Eric

# Rising to the 'Challenge'

ALAN ROBERTS

A NEW sports organization for paraplegics called Challenge was formally inaugurated by Major General Doron Rubin (Res.) at a recent gala reception at the Tel Aviv Marina, with guests of honor Chairman of the Jewish Agency Avraham Burg and Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo.

Challenge will enable Israel's paraplegics to take part in sports such as snow skiing, sailing, kayaking, off-road motor racing, deep sea diving, paragliding, skydiving and waterskiing. The organization's aims are to form new social circles for paraplegics, to alter the perception held by the public and to improve their status in society.

Physical disabilities of member paraplegic sportspeople were incurred at birth, in civilian life, through work and in the army, and the organization cuts across age and gender differences.

Challenge has adopted Ehud Manor's song "A Man's Spirit Can Surpass His Body" (*Ruah he adam yechol lagooft*), penned especially for the inauguration, as its anthem.

# English soccer promotion playoffs

FIRST LEG (Sunday)  
Division One  
Charlton 1, Crystal Palace 2  
Leicester 0, Stoke 0  
Division Two  
Bradford 0, Blackpool 2  
Crewe 2, Notts County 2  
Division Three  
Colchester 1, Plymouth 0  
Hereford 1, Darlington 0  
SECOND LEG (Tomorrow)

FINAL  
Saturday, May 25  
Division Three  
Winner promoted to division two  
Sunday, May 26  
Division Two  
Winner promoted to division one  
Monday, May 27  
Division One  
Winner promoted to Premier League

# FA Cup finally gets local recognition

SPORTSWATCH  
ORI LEWIS

THE bad old days are over for good. For many years now, the Israel Football Association, for some totally inexplicable reason, had pre-empted local TV stations from screening the English FA Cup final live. The governing body of Israeli soccer claimed that if the match was to be shown live, it might tempt local supporters to stay home in front of their TV sets rather than flock to the local stadium.

This year, the IFA was not only ignored by ICP and Cable Channel 5, who did indeed show the Manchester United-Liverpool FA Cup final live, they were also proved totally wrong.

The Cup Final censorship which the IFA wanted to impose on Israeli soccer fans would have counted for nothing as viewers could have stayed home to see a Second Division game (Ness Ziona v Hapoel Jerusalem) live, or they could have watched the National League title clincher between Maccabi Tel Aviv and Beitar Jerusalem from Bloomfield on Channel 2, also live. Both are broadcast with the IFA's blessing.

But as if to prove a point, almost 21,000 fans turned up at Bloomfield to see Maccabi Tel Aviv win its 18th National League crown. For them, there were no second thoughts about whether they should give it a miss this time and stay home to watch two of England's finest clubs fighting it out at Wembley Stadium. Some 37,000 spectators went to watch a match this weekend.

Local soccer may not be as high-quality or as illustrious as the FA Cup final, but when the chips are down, local fans know where their true allegiances lie, and whether it's a championship decider or a relegation tussle, the fans will be there to see the action unfold in the flesh.

No longer will we have to hold our breath until a few seconds before kickoff to know whether we will be able to see the FA Cup final live, for it will become a regular part of the local TV sporting schedule. In the past, we needed

to rely on Jordan TV in order to view the final, and then we would turn down the sound and listen to the radio commentary on BBC World Service.

The IFA has finally taken a step into the present and has realized that everybody is rushing past on the information superhighway, even if it is only in the form of a simple TV set.

These days too, an almost nominal fee can buy the Israeli insatiable soccer fan a weekend in London with a pair of Cup Final tickets.

But for those who decided to stay at home, Channel 5 gave its usual high standard broadcast, the Sky TV picture superimposed with Hebrew commentary by Rami Weitz with additional studio comments from Avi Meller and Sagi Cohen.

Sports Channel can also chalk up a history-making event, becoming the first locally approved broadcast of the FA Cup final. We must hope for more of these "firsts" because it is certainly no less than we long-suffering fans deserve.

# Merenda kicks five goals to power Richmond past Footscray

MELBOURNE (AP) — Wingman Mark Merenda kicked five goals Sunday to lead the Richmond Tigers to a 51-point victory over Footscray in an Australian Football League match.

Richmond scored two goals in 30 seconds in the third quarter and went on to clinch a 17-11 (113) to 9-8 (62) victory. The Tigers trailed by nine points at the start of the third term but surprised the Bulldogs with goals to Merenda and full-forward Matthew Richardson in the first five minutes.

In other matches Sunday, Adelaide demolished Fremantle 20-12 (132) to 5-6 (36) and the West Coast Eagles beat North Melbourne 19-11 (125) to 7-16 (58).

Adelaide won its fourth match of the season at home with its 96-point win over Fremantle, the worst defeat for the Dockers since they entered the league last year.

Brisbane Bears captain Roger Merrett celebrated his 300th AFL game by leading his side to a 63-point win Saturday over Hawthorn, 15-14 (104) to 5-11 (41); putting the Bears back in first place.

Fitzroy suffered its seventh straight loss, a 63-point decision to Carlton. Fitzroy scored only two goals in the first half as Carlton won 18-17 (125) to 8-14 (62). Rohan Welsh was the lead-

ing goalkicker for Carlton with five, while Anthony Mellington kicked two for the Lions.

Melbourne is only slightly better than Fitzroy with a 1-6 record after losing to the Sydney Swans 12-10 (82) to 5-8 (38). Melbourne failed to score a goal for 45 minutes between the second and final quarters as Sydney full-forward Tony Lockett kicked six goals.

On Friday, St. Kilda scored a 23-point victory over Collingwood after trailing for three quarters. The Saints booted seven goals in the last term to win 18-10 (118) to 14-11 (95).

Last Wednesday, in the first match of the seventh round, Essendon overcame Geelong 22-11 (143) to 17-12 (114) in a match celebrating the 100th anniversary of the AFL.

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Netanya 110/2 (D. Silver 54, R. Nickel 32) beat Ramla 109 (A. Joel 49).  
BeerSheva 175 (Y. Malekar 51, S. Szwargawik 3/28, S. Dandekar 3/69) beat Dimona A 160 (Y. Sagawik 44, G. Schneider 3/21, B. Gudker 3/54).  
Netanya 287/8 (R. Nickel 50, A. Vard 59, D. Silver 52, A.N. Nimi 45) beat Lod 178 (A. Yefet 31, A. Vaakar 52, J. Solsky 3/38).  
Eleven Stars 116/6 (S. Dandekar 4/47) beat Dimona A.115 (D. Alexander 5/25).  
Tel Aviv 138/5 (B. Washinsky 49) beat Young Ashdod 137 (S. Manji 33, VE. Worrell 4/53).  
Neveh Jonathan 366 (S. Raz 198, N. Raz 60, A. Daniels 36, B. Gudker 4/72, N. Gudker 3/101) beat BeerSheva 153 (G. Schneider 45, A. Daniels 5/47).

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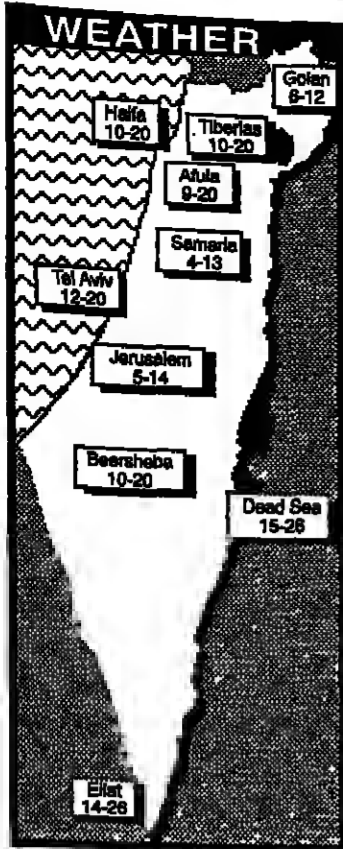
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**Plans ready for 15th Maccabiah**  
MEMBERS of the International Maccabiah Committee will meet in Kfar Haimacabiah in Ramat Gan today and tomorrow to announce plans for next year's 15th Maccabiah.  
Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor





Forecast: Partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Wind	Clouds
Amsterdam	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Berlin	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Buenos Aires	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Chicago	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Copenhagen	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Frankfurt	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Geneva	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Hong Kong	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Jerusalem	10	14	10	partly cloudy
London	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Los Angeles	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Madrid	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Moscow	10	14	10	partly cloudy
New York	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Paris	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Rome	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Sydney	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Tel Aviv	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Tokyo	10	14	10	partly cloudy
Zurich	10	14	10	partly cloudy



A terrorist whose bomb exploded prematurely on Friday in an eastern Jerusalem hotel is taken to hospital. (Brian Hecker)

# Terrorist injured when bomb explodes prematurely

A TERRORIST critically injured himself when a bomb he was preparing prematurely exploded in an eastern Jerusalem hotel room on Salah A-Din Street on Friday morning.

"I ran downstairs to see what happened when I saw a man with his legs blown off and arms mangled crying out in Arabic, 'Come help me, come help me,'" said Gregori Skandar, 58, a member of an Egyptian group staying at the Lawrence Hotel, where the explosion occurred.

The terrorist's identity has not yet been announced, but police sources said the public will be surprised when his identity is made public. They said news reports over the weekend that identified the terrorist as a Palestinian known to the police were unfounded.

A hotel worker said the terrorist checked into the hotel on Tuesday and was scheduled to leave the morning the bomb accidentally went off.

Police sources said the terrorist

may have been on his way to carry out a bombing against a Jewish target in west Jerusalem or have been preparing to hand the bomb over to another terrorist for a bombing at a later date.

"We are investigating several possibilities," a source said.

Jerusalem police obtained a court order forbidding publication of any details of the terrorist's identity until Sunday at noon. A police spokesman said the ban was necessary to allow security forces to carry out the investigation, and that the police might request that it be extended.

The explosion occurred at about 7:15 a.m. in the third-floor room, doing extensive damage to it and adjoining rooms. Police said only the terrorist, who was taken to Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem, was injured.

"The explosion occurred while the man was sitting in the room. It was either a bomb or some kind of explosives that he was

handling," said Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit. "Apparently it was a [terrorist's] work accident."

Amit said between two and three kilograms of TNT blew up. The bomb's make-up did not indicate a direct connection between the incident and the wave of Hamas suicide bombings that began in February.

A hospital spokesman said the terrorist arrived at the hospital with both of his legs and his right arm blown off, as well as extensive burns, but was still conscious. Police sources, however, said his wounds prevented interrogators from speaking with him over the weekend.

Police closed Salah A-Din Street, a major downtown east Jerusalem road that leads to the Old City. Glass from windows shattered in the explosion was on the street below the hotel, but there was little other visible damage outside.

Henry Lawrence, whose family owns the hotel, said the damage on the third floor was extensive.

"This is terrible. We are against this sort of thing," he said, adding that the explosion would surely hurt business.

"We are still in shock," said Skandar, who together with about 30 other Christian pilgrims from Cairo were being moved to another hotel.

"What has happened is God's will. A man on the way to blow people up blew himself up. This is God's justice," he added.

Ron Norman, a tourist from Chicago, was in a room near that of the terrorist's.

"I heard the explosion and ran out of my room into the hall, where I saw this guy lying with his legs blown off and his fingers dangling from his hand," Norman said.

"I tried to help the man, but the police came and told me I should leave the hotel, that the man was a terrorist who had blown himself up," Norman said.

## Health Ministry suspends Ichilov dep't head

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry has decided to suspend the medical license of Dr. Vladimir Yakirevich, head of Ichilov Hospital's cardiothoracic surgery department, for six months.

Ministry Director-General Dr. Meir Oren thereby implemented recommendations of a special committee set up by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh a month ago to investigate charges against the surgeon.

The unusual punishment was meted out Thursday after the ministry investigated a number of incidents of alleged malpractice involving Yakirevich. He was accused of having left the operating room several times during surgery, and leaving patients under the supervision of inexperienced doctors.

The committee reached the conclusion that these incidents "illustrate a clear behavioral structure... that do not suit a doctor."

In at least one of these incidents, there is "more than a reasonable suspicion that his leaving the operating theater directly caused the death of one of the patients."

Yakirevich will not be able to practice medicine for six months, the ministry spokeswoman said. In the meantime, the committee will continue its deliberations to prepare an official complaint. Police are also investigating suspicions the surgeon caused death by negligence, and accepted a bribe.

Ichilov Hospital's management expressed its "regret over the serious findings" of the committee. "This is a sad marker in the career of one of the best heart surgeons in the country who saved thousands of lives."

The Tel Aviv hospital will soon decide what steps it will take and who will immediately replace Yakirevich as department head.

## 'Hamas operating from bases in Germany'

BONN (Reuter) - A German counter-intelligence agency said the Hamas movement is raising funds and running a propaganda campaign against Israel from bases in Germany, a magazine reported yesterday.

Focus news weekly said Hamas activists are operating from bases in Berlin and Aachen using two cover organizations to raise funds and issue propaganda.

It cited officials from the Federal Office for Constitutional Protection (BfV) and the Federal Office for Criminal Investigations (BKA).

Neither agency had spokesmen immediately available for comment on the magazine report.

## Man drowns in mikve

A SDEROT man drowned in a mikve Friday night, apparently when he had an epileptic seizure.

Mordechai Kali, 36, who married a month ago, would regularly visit the mikve on Friday nights. Another resident who was waiting for his turn to enter the mikve became alarmed when Kali did not emerge after an unusually long period of time. "I yelled at him to hurry up and when he didn't respond I entered the room," the resident told police. He said he saw Kali floating in the water.

He alerted police and Magen David Adom, who tried to revive Kali. However, doctors declared him dead at the scene.

Family members said Kali had suffered from epilepsy since he was a child, and this could have been the cause of death. Kali's body was sent to the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute for an autopsy. (tim)

## Man drowns in mikve

TWO Russian laborers were on work visas when they were killed in a murder in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court in connection with the murder of a fellow Russian worker whose body was found earlier in the week. A third suspect, Alexander Yalka, also a Russian laborer, has fled the country, according to police.

Sergi Shimin, who was remanded for 13 days, and Yalka are suspected of killing the still unidentified fellow worker after getting

## Russian laborers held in murder of fellow worker

into a drunken brawl. The two tried to hide the body at a construction site in the Talpit industrial area, where it was found several days later.

Vassili Vassini, 36, who was remanded for seven days, allegedly witnessed the killing and helped the other two cover it up, a police representative told the court. The two deny any connection with the murder, although they admit involvement in the brawl.

Police said the suspects were not cooperating with investigators, which was one of the reasons the slain body has yet to be identified.

Police said they only knew that the body was of a Russian worker, apparently named Alexander. The suspects were all working at an Israel Electric Company site on Hebron Road, not far from the site of the killing.

Hier said Brando spoke in Yiddish as well as English, and at one point broke into tears, during the private three-hour meeting.

## Burg: Agency's operations in Russia will be law-abiding

BATSHEVA TSUR

THE Jewish Agency will continue its various operations in Russia in accordance with the laws in that country, Agency Chairman Avraham Burg said last week.

He was responding to reports from Moscow that as of April 2, the accreditation of the agency was no longer valid and it would have to adapt its activities to "new laws" issued by the Russian Ministry of Justice.

"We cannot allow ourselves to be apathetic but this is not a catastrophe," Burg added. A government spokesman refused to comment on the issue Thursday night, but diplomatic circles in Jerusalem were believed to be disturbed by the move despite the fact that other foreign organizations reportedly received similar notice.

Since the agency is a Jewish voluntary organization which operates in many countries, Burg said, its status should not be influenced by Israeli-Russian relations. "If there are issues at stake between the two countries, the Jewish Agency must be excluded," Burg said.

Ties between the two countries have been strained in recent months. An Israeli diplomat, reported to have engaged in clandestine activities, was declared persona non grata and the Russian foreign minister has persistently refused to meet with his Israeli counterpart.

Burg said the agency was given a mandate by the Russian government in 1992 to operate there "without a time limit." The varied activities it was permitted to carry out included "providing financial assistance, organizing religious institutions and cultural, educational and academic activities," he noted.

According to the legal agreement with Russia, the agency can also operate to facilitate aliyah, carrying immigrants and their baggage to Israel. Burg said Thursday night there were "no indications on the ground of any change in this respect." He noted that attempts in the past to harm aliyah had had the effect of triggering interest in going to Israel.

No formal notification from the Russian Justice Ministry of a change of status has yet been received by the agency, he added. Alla Levy, head of the agency's CIS department, will go to Moscow this week to meet with Justice Ministry officials to see whether the changes are "technical" or not, Burg said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

- Lahat receives threatening phone call**  
Former Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat, who heads the "People For Peres" group, filed a complaint with police over the weekend about a threat on his life.  
Lahat said an unknown man left a message on his answering machine saying he was calling on behalf of Yigal Amir and threatened that if Lahat did not stop his activities, "We'll kill you and you'll join Yitzhak Rabin." Lahat and his wife said the threats would not stop them from continuing their activities on Peres's behalf. (tim)
- 21 parties enter elections**  
Twenty-one parties registered with the Central Elections Committee by Thursday's midnight deadline to run in the elections.  
Energy Minister Gonen Segev of the one-member Yi'ud faction did not register the party despite speculation and negotiations with potential candidates. Sources close to the Joint Arab List claimed that the government unsuccessfully tried to pressure the party into removing lawyer Abed el-Malakh Dehamshe, a former security prisoner, from the top of the list.  
Ahmed Tibi, who heads the new Arab Movement for Renewal, told reporters he believes his party will win three mandates. (Liat Collins)
- Bus bombing victim dies**  
Yitzhak Weinstein, 54, died early Friday morning of injuries he sustained in the suicide bombing of a Jerusalem No. 18 bus. Weinstein, who immigrated from the US in 1979, had been unconscious in the intensive care unit at Hadassah University Hospital-Ein Kerem since the bombing. The Ma'aleh Adumim resident had been on his way to work at a supermarket in Kiryat Hayovel when the bombing occurred. (tim)
- Veteran reporter dies at 87**  
Joseph Polakoff, the dean of the American Jewish press corps, died Friday at the Hospice of Washington. He was 87 and had lung cancer. Polakoff was a familiar figure for decades at White House and State Department press briefings, doggedly quizzing US press officers about Middle East policy.  
Born in Russia, Polakoff grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and began his journalism career posting baseball scores in the window of a local newspaper. He soon moved inside as a copy boy and eventually became city editor. Retiring from the US government in 1970, he became the Washington bureau chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, and subsequently worked for several American Jewish newspapers. (AP)
- Man killed in apartment fire**  
Elhanan Abeid, 73, of Neveh Monosson, was killed yesterday morning when a fire broke out in his apartment, apparently due to an electrical short circuit. Three other family members suffered light injuries from smoke inhalation.  
The fire began in Abeid's room at 6:30. His son and neighbors tried to rescue him. However, they could not get past the blaze and had to wait until fire-fighters arrived. After the fire was brought under control, medics tried to revive Abeid, who was declared dead at the scene. (tim)

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